

Church of the Divine Love
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 3, 2024 10:15 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence Alleluias are omitted during Lent

Prayer before worship – on insert

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Processional Hymn #574 – **Before thy throne, O God, we kneel**

Opening Acclamation for Lent page 361

The Decalogue page 350

The Confession page 353

THE WORD OF GOD

Kyrie page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Exodus 20:1-17**

Psalm 19

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

Gradual Hymn #685 – **Rock of ages, cleft for me**

Gospel: **John 2:13-22**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#431 – The stars declare his glory**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 367

Hymn during Consecration - printed on insert

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn **#335 – I am the bread of life**

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn **#313 -Let thy Blood in mercy poured**

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday March 3, 2024

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

What do you think of table-turning, animal-driving, whip-carrying Jesus? What do imagine set him off that day? And what do we do with this story?

There was a time when I heard this story as being mostly about anger. Jesus got angry. I get angry. So, it's ok to get angry if you're angry about the right thing. Maybe, but I think there's more to this story than that. I wonder if what we see Jesus doing might not be an expression of his deepest compassion for life, for the temple, for the world, for you and me. There was a time when I thought Jesus was upset about the animals and the moneychangers being in the temple. Maybe, but again I think there's more to this

story than that. I don't think Jesus was surprised by the animals and money changers. He grew up as a faithful Jew going to the temple. He didn't show up this day and say, Wow! There are animals and money changers in here. I didn't know that. This is wrong.

The animals and money changers had always been there. That's how the system worked. It was business as usual for them to be there. Business as usual meant changing Roman coins to temple coins, purchasing an animal, and offering a sacrifice. I think business as usual is the issue. The animals and money changers are not the problem. They are the symptom that something else is going on. I think Jesus went to the temple that day for one purpose and with one intention; to throw out and overturn business as usual. There are times when we need the tables of our life overturned and the animals thrown out. It's just so easy to fall into the trap of business as usual.

Haven't there been times in your life when you realized that business as usual was costing you your life? Haven't there been times when you realized that business as usual was leaving you spiritually bankrupt? Haven't there been times in your life when you were keeping on keeping on but nothing changed? Business as usual can happen anywhere: in friendships, marriages, parenting, work, church. It's all the habits and routines we fall into that cause us to sleep walk through this world. We look but we don't see, we listen but we don't hear, we speak but don't say anything.

It happens whenever we push the auto-pilot button and life becomes mechanical. We go through the motions. We show up but we're not really there. Have you ever smiled that I'm-good-and-everything-is-fine smile but behind the smile there was an emptiness, you felt hollow, and your heart was breaking? That's carrying on with business as usual. Or maybe you wake up in the morning and you're as exhausted as you were when you went to bed the night before. Business as usual. Have you ever felt like you were just not yourself? Nothing seemed right? Boredom overcame creativity. There was no enthusiasm, wonder, or imagination. It was just business as usual. Sometimes we look at life and the world and it all seems in vain. Is this all there is to me and my life? What have I accomplished? Who am I? We're busy but not really getting anywhere. There's no depth or meaning, only business as usual.

There are thousands of reasons and ways in which we fall into business as usual. There's one thing, however, that I keep coming back to. Forgetfulness. Business as usual is born of forgetfulness. It happens every time we forget the original beauty of our creation. It happens whenever we forget the God-given dignity of humanity, ours or another's. It happens whenever we forget that we have been created in the image and likeness of God. It happens whenever we forget that after creation "God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). It happens whenever we forget the grace and possibilities bestowed upon us at our baptism. It happens when we close ourselves to the future. It happens anytime we forget that Jesus turns the water of our lives into wine (Jn. 2:9). It happens anytime we forget that "the Word became flesh and lived among us" (Jn. 1:14) as one of us. It happens every time we forget that "we have all received grace upon grace" (Jn. 1:16).

When we forget that we are the temple of God, the very residence of God, life can easily become a series of transactions. Relationships and intimacy are lost. Priorities get rearranged. Our world is small.

Making a living replaces living a life, and the life we have becomes a marketplace rather than a place for meeting the holy in ourselves and one another. And it's business as usual. That's what Jesus is overturning and driving out of the temple. Here's why I say that. When the authorities ask for a sign from Jesus for what he is doing he says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The authorities don't understand. They are thinking a stone and mortar temple but Jesus is talking about a flesh and blood temple. The temple he is talking about is the temple of human life. "In three days" – what does that make you think of? What happens on the third day? Resurrection, a new life, a new beginning, a rebirth. It's no longer business as usual.

Over and over again Jesus interrupts, disrupts, overturns, and throws out business as usual. It was no longer business as usual for the Samaritan woman. She is no longer the woman who had five husband and lives with a sixth man. She is a well of living water. It was no longer business as usual for man who lay paralyzed on his mat thirty-eight years. He took up his mat and walked. It was no longer business as usual for the 5000 empty and hungry people. They left that mountainside full and satisfied. It was no longer business as usual for the woman caught in adultery. "Neither do I condemn you," Jesus said, "go your way." It was no longer business as usual for the man blind from birth. "One thing I do know," he said, "though I was blind, now I see." It was no longer business as usual for four-days-dead Lazarus. He came out of the tomb.

If those stories tell us anything they tell us that we are not intended to live a business-as-usual life. It's too small for us. Lent is a season that invites us to look at the ways our life has become business as usual, to make changes, clean out, and prepare for a new life, a new day, the third day. I wonder what business as usual looks like in your life today? What tables need to be overturned? What animals need to be driven out? What does the temple of your life need today? And what are you willing to do about that?

Living as a living temple, in a deeply personal relationship with God, is a daily task, something not at all abstract. We have to get away from the hierarchical dogmatic stuff, and down into the heart of the matter, that we have to listen to the God who dwells in our hearts. Remember that regardless of wherever you are in the journey, make time to hear what God in Christ is speaking to your mind and heart, and then take one first step. And then another. And then another. With each step, be assured that again and again, we will be shown the way. **Amen.**

Easter flower memorial envelopes are at the back of the church. Please clearly print the names of your loved ones; and return by March 17th.

3 LENT 10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY 8:30 PM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP
8:30 PM AA MEETING

SAURDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

SET CLOCKS AHEAD

4 LENT 10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

| | Today | Next Week |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Eucharistic Minister | Anthony Giordano | Roe Prosser |
| Coffee | Giordanos | Janet Croft |

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Grace Schinella | Lourdes S. | Jess |
| Bob Curley | Beverly Noel | Art |
| Chris Dickson | Kate Jones | Deb P. |
| Michael Echevarria | John Rocco | Judy |
| Christopher | Warren | Kristen |
| Charlotte H. | Bernie Walther | Celeste |
| Jerry & Family | Phil Ryder | Carolyn |
| Anthony Paribello | Barbara Curran | Del |
| Robert Hosey | Henry | Aidan |
| Sally & Roger | Sophia | Carol K. |
| Mary & Family | Ciara | Jan |
| Nathan Treadwell | Gladys Hadija | Vincent |
| Michael & Family | Matthew Treasure | Mo |
| Jean Estinvil Quatorze | Jean Wildy Nicolas | |

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disasters.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.
Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email
Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the
spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you,
from coldness of heart, and wanderings of mind, that
with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may
worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,

Lay my life before you,

How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions
and glory, now and for ever. Amen