

*Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024*

Greeting

Call to Worship:

Pastor: We will sing about the wonders of your love forever, O God!

**People: We will tell everyone we meet about your faithfulness to all generations!**

Pastor: We will declare that your love stands firm,

**People:** that your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above!

Pastor: Blessed are those who know you as their God,

**People: for they walk in the light of your presence!**

**Worship Music Me On Your Mind**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we have come to you today bringing all that we have; our lives, our hopes and dreams, our fears and sorrows. We place them before you in faith and hope, knowing that no matter what has happened you are with us and blessing us. Open our hearts to receive your words and your spirit, that we may find healing and comfort. Open our lives to the possibilities for service and joy that you offer to us. Ease our minds and spirits so that we may hear your words of encouragement and peace this day. **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN The Church’s One Foundation #545

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 86: 8-12 NIV

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM Ivory Palaces

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

O Lord, you graciously pour out your blessings on us. Your gifts surround us. Despite our abundance, help us see the widow’s gift, for we long to give as she did, gladly giving all she had. All we have is a gift from your hand. Help us loosen our hands, giving to the work of this church on your behalf, for in giving freely to you, we gain the opportunity to live abundant lives!

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. Take the gifts of our hands, and bless and multiply them

for the sake of your kingdom alone. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 12: 28-44 NLT

HYMN OF PREPARATION Take My Life, and Let It Be #399

SERMON The Most Important Pastor Lyle

\*CLOSING HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #384

BENEDICTION

To live as God’s people of abundance, while not giving in to the pull of our culture, you’re going to need the power of the Holy Spirit. Lift your hands and hearts, in the name of the Father, who sustains us; the Son, who instructs us; and the Spirit, who leads us. Go forth to love and serve the Lord— the one who loves the widow and the orphan, singing the Lord’s song of hope in dry lands!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Amber – breast cancer Faye Miller - immunotherapy

Jim Adams – cancer surgery March 12 Nash – leukemia (home)

Julie Baechley – Covid Art Pannebecker – heart issues

Margaret Bollinger – stroke, aneurysm People in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine

Brenda – passing of her sister Connie Rupp – hospice care at Fairmont

Family of Glen Bubbenmoyer Dr. Bill Schlorff – stage 3 throat cancer

Michelle Daniels - chemotherapy Sharon - brain cancer

Donna – cancer treatable Shooting victims in Kansas City

Sherry Gregory – stroke Linda Slafkovski – metastatic cancer

Cindy Haines – skilled care Dawn Smith – stage 4 cancer

Family of Sam Heiser Tom Steffy – doctor appointments

Mary Jenks – Cancer surgery Greg and Sue Steininger

Employees of Martin’s in Ephrata Roy Weik – Health Center Cornwall

Family of Dorothy Miller Alex Wenger- leukemia

 Family of Noah Wenger

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,400**

**OFFERING March 3rd  $2,045**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO     $12,600**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE         $22,605**

**BUDGET YTD +$10005 Attendance – 36 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

The Chosen – video series – 1030 Sunday after church

Bible Study – Tuesdays 1000-1200.

Choir Practice – Thursdays 1200 PM

Girl Scouts – 2nd Thursday of each month

Girl Scout Sunday – March 10, 2024

Game Day – Thursday March 14th and March 28th 130-330 PM

Blessings of Hope – Saturday March 23rd 1030-1100

Community Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday March 30th 2PM Schoeneck Park

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Lectionary Readings for next week: Sunday – Mark 12:41-44

Monday – Mark 13:1-8 Thursday – Daniel 11:29-35

Tuesday – Mark 13:9-13 Friday – Mark 13:21-23

Wednesday – Mark 13:14-20 Saturday – Daniel 7:9-14

Sermon Summary

The Most Important

Jesus has been travelling throughout the Gospel of Mark. Sometimes he travelled by boat; but mostly, he travelled on foot, walking with his disciples. As he travelled, he healed the sick, cast out demons and reached out to the marginalized.

He also taught the people he met. He taught really important things: he taught about God and his love for people. He has reached his final destination, Jerusalem.

It was the capital of Israel and home of the Temple.

A scribe asked him what was the most important commandment. He answered with the Shema; love the Lord with all of yourself. He added, “and love your neighbor as yourself.” The scribe responded that Jesu was correct; he added that doing these things was more important than rituals and offerings. Jesus told him that he was close to the Kingdom of God.

Jesus teaches that the Messiah will be more than a human descendant of King David. He then criticizes the religious leaders for being too concerned with appearance and of taking advantage of the poor. Jesus is trying to show how the kingdom of God—a thoroughly Jewish idea and movement in Mark’s narrative—challenges human power structures for the healing of all people. Jesus dedicates his life to the healing of the broken and marginalized.Mark makes the vital point that Jesus’ mission of healing comes directly from the God of Israel. Finally, Jesus is God’s anointed Messiah—not some mechanical adherence to Old Testament prooftexts but a concrete embodiment of divine love, lived out perfectly and thoroughly.

Let us pray:

Lord of love, you have taught us that love is your greatest commandment. Teach us to love as unconditionally as you love us. Amen.

Sermon Quiz

1. Jesus travels from place to place; mostly by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. He taught really important things: about \_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_ for people.
3. Jerusalem, his final destination, was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Israel and the site of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_\_ asked him which commandment was the \_\_\_\_\_ important.
5. Jesus answered by citing the \_\_\_\_\_\_: love the Lord with \_\_\_\_ of yourself.
6. Jesus teaches that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be more than a \_\_\_\_\_\_ descendant of King David.
7. Jesus shows how the Kingdom of \_\_\_\_ challenges \_\_\_\_\_\_ power structures.
8. Jesus dedicates his life to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the broken and marginalized.
9. Mark makes the vital point that Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ comes directly from the God of Israel.
10. Jesus is God’s anointed Messiah, a concrete embodiment of divine \_\_\_\_, lived out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and thoroughly,

Last Week’s Quiz

1. Jesus tells stories we call parables; they are stories with a message.
2. The story is known as The Parable of the Wicked Tenants.
3. A landowner bought land, planted a vineyard and hired tenants so that he might profit from his investment.
4. When the season came, the landowner sent a slave to receive his share of the fruit.
5. The tenants beat the slave and sent him away empty handed.
6. This happened many times; some slaves were beaten, others killed.
7. Finally, the landowner sent his son, expecting them to respect him.
8. The tenants killed him thinking they would inherit the land.
9. The tenants were the chief priests, scribes and elders; the slaves were the prophets.
10. If Jesus called you, how would you see the call?