

Grace Episcopal Church

Holy Monday

Called to action, overturning tables, prayer for the nations inspired by Chris Thrope

Welcome

We don't find it easy to talk about money! We find it can evoke embarrassment, even anger in some people. It crosses the line between public faith and our private lives. Yes, Jesus often did precisely this: many of his parables and sayings speak about what we do with our money. On Holy Monday, we come to reflect on our relationship with money, our money worries in this current crisis and what our money choices say about our relationship with God.

Song *Give thanks with a grateful heart*, Henry Smith

Opening Prayer

God of true value and worth, in a world of fool's gold and counterfeit currency, may we discern our hallmark of love, to find our treasure in you. Quieten our hearts and minds, as we still our bodies, slow our breathing, and open ourselves to you. **Amen.**

Psalm (56:1-4)

Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me; all day long foes oppress me.

My enemies trample on me all day long, for many fight against me.

O Most High, when I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me?

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever.

Bible Reading (Mark 11:15-19)

Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a den of robbers.'"

And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

Living Word of God....**Live in our lives today.**

Reflection

Response

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

Prayers

We pray for that this house will be a house of prayer for all nations. We hold our coins now as we think of the many different countries they represent. Bless all the countries of the world, rich and poor, strong and weak, and give us courage to challenge and change injustice and inequality, both locally and globally.

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

We pray for all who are constrained by debt, living under the weight of money worries, feeling unable to break free from the burden of the past and the uncer-

tainty of the future.

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

We pray for people who are hungry today because their families cannot afford the food they need, and for all who are struggling to pay the bills. We pray for all who are afraid of today.

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

We pray for all who fear unemployment, for all who are fearful that they will not have enough money to provide for their needs going forward. We pray for all who are afraid for the future.

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

We pray for the changing face of finance, for credit unions and all who are offering fair terms of finance, for all who are working to encourage good practices of money management, for all who are supporting people in moving through debt and loss to get their finances on a firmer footing.

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

O God, overturn the tables of our false values, of our unfair trade, our unjust systems. Enlist us in your company of freedom, recruit us to the cause of justice, unfreeze our fear, undo our indifference, unlock our compassion, enable our hands to work and act and move for you. **Amen.**

Act of Commitment

Now everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. *Matthew 7:21*

Lord of all nations, overturn the tables of our hearts, drive out all that is selfish and complacent, that we may become a living temple for your glory. Strengthen in us the resolve we offer today. May we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you our God. Amen.

The Peace

Peace in our hearts, Peace in our homes,
Peace in our nation, Peace in our world.
God longs for us to know peace!
The Peace of the Lord be always with you, **and also with you.**

Song *Give thanks with a grateful heart*, Henry Smith

Closing Responses

God in our working, **wisdom in our spending,**
enough in our needs, **generosity in our sharing,**
be now among us, **Jesus our brother,**
bring us your blessing, **now and always.**
Amen.

The Right Reverend Scott Benhase, Bishop of Georgia

The Reverend Kit H. Brinson, Rector

Mr. Mike Taylor, Musician