

**\*\*031520\*\***

#1 (Lead-in: ?) ***Even while waiting for further blessings, prayer in itself is of great help to those who lament.***

(Liturgist: ?)

*Psalm 86:8-13 (NLT)*

<sup>8</sup>No pagan god is like you, O Lord. None can do what you do! <sup>9</sup>All the nations you made will come and bow before you, Lord; they will praise your holy name. <sup>10</sup>For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God.

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you. <sup>12</sup>With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever, <sup>13</sup>for your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death.

#2 (Lead-in: ) ***Human arrogance and violence show the depth of our misunderstanding. We may think the world is ours for the taking. That is an idea full of folly, according to the message of Jesus.***

(Liturgist: ?)

*Mark 12:1-12 (NLT)*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus began teaching them with stories: “A man planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. <sup>2</sup>At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop. <sup>3</sup>But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed. <sup>4</sup>The owner then sent another servant, but they insulted him and beat him over the head. <sup>5</sup>The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed, <sup>6</sup>until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly. The owner finally sent him, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’ <sup>7</sup>“But the tenant farmers said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ <sup>8</sup>So they grabbed him and murdered him and threw his body out of the vineyard.

<sup>9</sup>“What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do?” Jesus asked. “I’ll tell you—he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup>Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. <sup>11</sup>This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’” <sup>12</sup>The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the crowd, so they left him and went away.

#3 (Lead-in: ) ***We are made in the image of God. We are God’s currency in the world.***

(Liturgist: ?)

*Mark 12:13-17 (NLT)*

<sup>13</sup>Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. <sup>14</sup>“Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? <sup>15</sup>Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?” Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I’ll tell you.” <sup>16</sup>When they handed it to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. <sup>17</sup>“Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” His reply completely amazed them.