



Worldly Eyes

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
7:00 p.m.

As We Gather

This Lent, we will use the metaphor of eyesight to examine how the various people in Mark's Gospel viewed Jesus during His Passion. In most cases, they misunderstood who He was and what He was doing; then again, sometimes by faith people did recognize Him correctly.

We have these forty days of Lent in which we may look within ourselves as people of faith in our day. How are we like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh? Most important, as we gather for worship, we will see what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death.

Today, we learn of Pilate's worldly view and how, to keep his position and placate the Jewish leaders and crowd, he handed Jesus over for crucifixion. The soldiers saw the opposite of a worldly king, but their ironic hailing of Him as "King of the Jews" proclaims who He really is. The world looks for power and glory; God's way is suffering and the cross. Which way do we look in the daily decisions we make?

HYMN

Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face



1 Our eyes be - hold the Sav - ior's face And
2 Our fo - cus flits and fails to see The
3 Our sights train on the dread - ful cross. Be -
4 Our vi - sion blurs with anx - ious tears As
5 Our view scans for the com - ing Day That

yet can - not per - ceive That
One whose stead - fast gaze Pro -
neath His know - ing eyes, Our
Je - sus' eye - lids fall To
ev - er - more grows near, When

His per - spec - tive held our
pelled Him to the dark - ened
sins are bare and set for
con - quer sin and all our
Je - sus wipes our tears a -

grace Be - fore we could be - lieve.
tree En - vel - oped in death's haze.
loss; He sees us as His prize.
fears And tear in two our pall.
way And all is crys - tal clear.

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OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 121:1–2; 145:15–16; 17:8; 25:15; Job 19:15–17

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?

**People: My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 121:1–2***

Pastor: The eyes of all look to You,
and You give them their food in due season.

**People: You open Your hand;
You satisfy the desire of every living thing. *Psalm 145:15–16***

Pastor: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

People: hide me in the shadow of Your wings. *Psalm 17:8*

Pastor: My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

People: for He will pluck my feet out of the net. *Psalm 25:15*

Pastor: For I know that my Redeemer lives,

People: and at the last He will stand upon the earth.

Pastor: And after my skin has been thus destroyed,

People: yet in my flesh I shall see God,

Pastor: whom I shall see for myself,

People: and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

My heart faints within me! *Job 19:25–27*

CONFESSION

Pastor: As we perceive how the people around Jesus were unable to truly see Him, let us confess our own failures to respond to His grace and mercy.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: The disciples misjudged the good deed of the woman who anointed Jesus,

People: and we have failed to see that He is pleased with the loving service of His followers.

Judas betrayed Jesus out of fear and for financial gain,

People: and we have betrayed our weak faith in Him when making difficult decisions.

Pastor: Jesus' closest disciples gave in to sleep rather than watching and praying,

People: and we have preferred physical comfort over spiritual turmoil.

Pastor: Peter failed to keep his bold promise of faithfulness to save his skin,

People: and we have let Sunday's strength fade when Monday morning dawned.

Pastor: Jesus fulfilled the promise of salvation, even as His opponents sought to be rid of Him,

People: and He went to the cross because of our sins as well.

Pastor: Pilate wanted to keep his political position, the soldiers saw only a weak man on the cross,

People: and we have let ourselves be deceived by the world's definition of success.

Pastor: Jesus' body and blood are not visible in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper,

People: and we have not always looked beyond what our eyes can see in the Sacrament.

Pastor: His Father forsook Jesus on the cross as He took all the punishment we deserve,

People: and we have, at times, focused on our best efforts instead of fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Pastor: Jesus' followers didn't understand before Easter that He was only resting temporarily,

People: and we have not always looked beyond our physical health or longevity.

Pastor: The angel proclaimed Jesus' resurrection to the women,

People: and we pray that You, heavenly Father, will forgive us all our sins for Jesus' sake. Help us fix our eyes on Jesus each day until we follow Him to our eternal home, where we shall see You face to face.

FORGIVENESS

Pastor: "From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides [the Lord], who acts for those who wait for Him" (Isaiah 64:4). As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 13:9–11

SECOND READING 1 John 2:15–17

HYMN "Christ the Life of All the Living" LSB 420 st. 1, 6

THIRD READING John 18:33–38

PASSION

Mark 15:1–20

Pastor: This Lent, we are looking at the events of our Lord's Passion through the eyes of some of the people who witnessed it. Today, we find ourselves speaking the words of the chief priests and the soldiers, the groups who called for Jesus' execution and ironically called Him "King."

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led Him away and delivered Him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And He answered him,

You have said so.

And the chief priests accused Him of many things. And Pilate again asked Him, "Have You no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against You." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered Him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again,

People: Crucify Him.

Pastor: And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more,

People: Crucify Him.

Pastor: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. And the soldiers led Him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed Him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on Him. And they began to salute Him,

People: Hail, King of the Jews!

Pastor: And they were striking His head with a reed and spitting on Him and kneeling down in homage to Him. And when they had mocked Him, they

stripped Him of the purple cloak and put His own clothes on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“What Is the World to Me”

LSB 730

MESSAGE

Worldly Eyes

Pastor Warren Schilf

OFFERING

(Gifts for the Mission and Ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School are received.)

(Want to give online? Text IMMANUELGIVE to #77977)

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the Church around the world, ourselves, and all people in their various needs.

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season.

For farmers and ranchers and those who bring food to market, that God would provide favorable weather, bountiful harvests, and relief from both drought and flood, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Look on them all in Your mercy, heavenly Father.

Leader: My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. For all who struggle with unemployment or underemployment, with poor living conditions or displacement from home, with personal demons or ill health, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Behold their turmoil, Lord Jesus, and grant them relief and hope.

Leader: His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. *Psalm 97:4*

For all people in authority over communities and countries, all whose decisions affect the climate of the planet and the health of its inhabitants, and all who are charged to maintain justice within their borders and peace

among nations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Gaze upon Your servants, O Lord; protect and guide them that they may serve with wisdom, compassion, and courage.

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD. *Psalm 121:1–2a*

For all who serve the Lord as they care for others—medical personnel and first responders, counselors and advisers, friends and neighbors, professionals and volunteers—let us pray to the Lord.

People: Observe how they use the gifts You have given them, O Holy Spirit, and open doors of opportunity for them so that many may rejoice together.

Leader: Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

Psalm 17:8

For the Church around the world, as clergy and lay leaders seek to proclaim the Gospel and faithfully endeavor to share their faith, especially in the face of persecution, let us pray to the Lord.

People: See their struggle, O Holy Spirit, and give them strength to persevere and grow.

Leader: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! *Psalm 34:8*

For the Church, wherever it gathers around Word and Sacrament, relying on God's steadfast love and faithfulness, and looking forward to the fulfillment of all His gracious promises, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Watch over Your Church, Lord Jesus; protect and defend us until that day we see You face to face.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

People: give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;

Leader: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God—the Father, who saw mankind’s hopeless condition, the ✠ Son, who showed the depth of God’s love, and the Holy Spirit, who has opened our eyes of faith in Christ—be upon you now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Although we see Jesus as our King, we need His help so that others may see “our lives express the image” of Jesus’ love, as in the last stanza of this hymn.

HYMN

“Before the Throne of God Above”

LSB 574 st. 1, 4, 6

Tune: O, Waly Waly, LSB 595

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Weekend

April 4-5

Saturday Worship: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Discipleship Hour: 9:15 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL

April 11

Worship Service 5:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12

Easter Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m.

Easter Worship 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Fellowship Hour 9:15 a.m.

EASTER BREAKFAST AND COFFEE

Our Youth will be serving refreshments after each service in Fellowship Hall. All proceeds will support youth trips and event

Acknowledgments

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