

## Outline of Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church/Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Gaylord/Grayling, Michigan – Rev. Joseph Polzin  
Wednesday, March 25, 2020 / Midweek of Lent 4 – Year A, “Eyes on Jesus – Murderous Eyes”

(Materials adapted from the series, *Eyes on Jesus*, copyrighted by Concordia Publishing House [St. Louis], 2019.)

*As We Gather: This Lent, we will use the imagery 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 clearly and 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 importantly, 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 take a look at the chief priests and scribes, who saw Jesus as an obstacle to be rid of by violence. Yet, during the Passover festival, they would unwittingly bring about the sacrifice of the ultimate Passover Lamb. How, then, should we view those who oppose the Gospel in our day? And how might these insights guide our prayers?*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: 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.*

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

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

P: Judas betrayed Jesus out of fear and for financial gain,

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

P: Jesus’ closest disciples gave in to sleep rather than watching and praying,

C: **and we have preferred physical comfort over spiritual turmoil.**

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

C: **and we have let Sunday’s strength fade when Monday morning dawned.**

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

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

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

C: **and we have let ourselves be deceived by the world’s definition of success.**

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

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

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

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

P: Jesus' followers didn't understand before Easter that He was only resting temporarily,  
C: **and we have not always looked beyond our physical health or longevity.**

P: The angel proclaimed Jesus' resurrection to the women,  
C: **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.**

P: "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). In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Opening Sentences

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

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

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

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

P: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

C: **hide me in the shadow of Your wings.** *(Psalm 17:8 ESV)*

P: My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

C: **for He will pluck my feet out of the net.** *(Psalm 25:15 ESV)*

P: For I know that my Redeemer lives,

C: **and at the last He will stand upon the earth.**

P: And after my skin has been thus destroyed,

C: **yet in my flesh I shall see God,**

P: whom I shall see for myself,

C: **and my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
My heart faints within me!** *(Job 19:25–27 ESV)*

### Collect of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **First Reading – 1 John 3:11-15 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <sup>12</sup> We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

**P:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading – Matthew 23:29-36 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ <sup>31</sup> Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. <sup>32</sup> Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. <sup>33</sup> You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? <sup>34</sup> Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, <sup>35</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. <sup>36</sup> Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

**P:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Passion Reading – Mark 14:1-2, 53-65**

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, <sup>2</sup> for they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people....”

<sup>53</sup> And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. <sup>54</sup> And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. <sup>56</sup> For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup> And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, <sup>58</sup> “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” <sup>59</sup> Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup> And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” <sup>61</sup> But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” <sup>63</sup> And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? <sup>64</sup> You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. <sup>65</sup> And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows.

**P:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian Church,  
     the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

**Sermon**

**Prayer and 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 trespasses  
     as we forgive those  
     who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil  
**For Thine is the kingdom  
 and the power and the glory  
 forever and ever. Amen.****

**Benediction**

**P:** 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.  
**C:** **Amen.**

**Midweek Lenten Schedule – “Eyes on Jesus”**

|                           |                   |                                  |                                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| February 26 <sup>th</sup> | Ash Wednesday     | <b>“Misjudging Eyes”</b>         | Focus: Mark 14:1-9              |
| March 4 <sup>th</sup>     | Midweek of Lent 1 | <b>“Betraying Eyes”</b>          | Focus: Mark 14:10-21, 32, 41-46 |
| March 11 <sup>th</sup>    | Midweek of Lent 2 | <b>“Sleepy Eyes”</b>             | Focus: Mark 14:32-42            |
| March 18 <sup>th</sup>    | Midweek of Lent 3 | <b>“Denying Eyes”</b>            | Focus: Mark 14:26-31, 66-72     |
| March 25 <sup>th</sup>    | Midweek of Lent 4 | <b>“Murderous Eyes”</b>          | Focus: Mark 14:1-2, 53-65       |
| April 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Midweek of Lent 5 | <b>“Worldly Eyes”</b>            | Focus: Mark 15:1-20             |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup>     | Maundy Thursday   | <b>“More Than Meets the Eye”</b> | Focus: Mark 14:22-25            |
| April 10 <sup>th</sup>    | Good Friday       | <b>“God’s Eyes”</b>              | Focus: Mark 15:21-39            |

