

## Outline of Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church/Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Gaylord/Grayling, Michigan – Rev. Joseph Polzin  
Wednesday, April 1, 2020 / Midweek of Lent 5 – Year A, “Eyes on Jesus – Worldly 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 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?

## 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, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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 – Psalm 2:1-12 (ESV)

Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?  
<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,  
<sup>3</sup>“Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us.”  
<sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.  
<sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,  
<sup>6</sup>“As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”  
<sup>7</sup>I will tell of the decree:  
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.  
<sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.  
<sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”  
<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.  
<sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.  
<sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading – John 18:33-38 (ESV)

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”  
<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”  
After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Passion Reading – Mark 15:1-20

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. <sup>2</sup> And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” <sup>3</sup> And the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” <sup>5</sup> But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup> Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup> And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. <sup>8</sup> And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. <sup>9</sup> And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup> For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. <sup>12</sup> And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup> And they cried out again, "Crucify him." <sup>14</sup> And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." <sup>15</sup> So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup> And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. <sup>17</sup> And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup> 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.

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

