

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin

March 4, 2020

Midweek Lenten Service

MURDEROUS EYES

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 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? How might these insights guide our prayers?



Opening Hymn 440 *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (1, 2, 6)*

Opening Sentences *Psalm 121:1–2; Psalm 145:15–16; Psalm 17:8; Psalm 25:15; Job 19:25–27*

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

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

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

You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Keep me as the apple of your eye;

hide me in the shadow of your wings,

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

For I know that my Redeemer lives,

and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

And after my skin has been thus destroyed,

yet in my flesh I shall see God,

whom I shall see for myself,

and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

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

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,

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

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

and we have preferred physical comfort over spiritual turmoil.

Peter failed to keep his bold promise of faithfulness to save himself,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The angel proclaimed Jesus' resurrection to the women,

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.

“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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading — Job 24:13-17

“There are those who rebel against the light, who are not acquainted with its ways, and do not stay in its paths. ¹⁴The murderer rises before it is light, that he may kill the poor and needy, and in the night he is like a thief. ¹⁵The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight, saying, ‘No eye will see me’; and he veils his face. ¹⁶In the dark they dig through houses; by day they shut themselves up; they do not know the light. ¹⁷For deep darkness is morning to all of them; for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Bell Choir Anthem

7:00pm

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Epistle Reading — 1 John 3:11-15

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²We 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. ¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel — Matthew 23: 29-36

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰saying, ‘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.’ ³¹Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. ³³You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? ³⁴Therefore 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, ³⁵so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsory *Hebrews 9:11; Mark 14:62; 1 Peter 1:8, adapted*

Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come.

Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.

Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.

You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power.

Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.

Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.

Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come.

Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.

Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.

Hymn **435** *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain*

Sermon **Murderous Eyes**

Reading of the Passion of our Lord *Mark 14:1; 53-65*

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 read the words of the people who unwittingly called for Jesus' death, the sacrifice for all sin.

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the 14th chapter.

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,⁵³ and they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together.⁵⁴ 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.⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none.⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree.⁵⁷ And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying,⁵⁸ "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.’”⁵⁹ Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰And 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?” ⁶¹But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶²And 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.” ⁶³And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵And 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.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn **420** *Christ, the Life of All the Living* (1, 5, 7)

Offering

Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Hymn **423** *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*



Acknowledgments

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Serving the Lord in Worship

Pastor	Rev. Mark R. Palmer	
Organist	Mrs. Lorraine Doell	
Music	St. Paul Handbells Choir	
Acolytes	Cameron Schroeder	Lizzy Delzer

Midweek Lenten Worship

Eyes on Jesus

10:00am and 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 11 – *Sleepy Eyes*

Rev. Travis Kleinschmidt

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church, Shawano

Wednesday, March 18 – *Denying Eyes*

Rev. John Eyer

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stony Hill, and Zion Lutheran Church, Gresham

Wednesday, March 25 – *Betraying Eyes*

Rev. Steve Conradt

St. John Lutheran Church, Hermansfort

Wednesday, April 1 – *Worldly Eyes*

Rev. Travis Kleinschmidt

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church, Shawano



Rev. Timothy J. Shoup, Administrative Pastor

Rev. Mark R. Palmer, Associate Pastor

Mr. Gerald R. Schmidt, Principal

Mrs. Lorraine Doell, Music Director

Mrs. Robin Reep, Youth Director

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