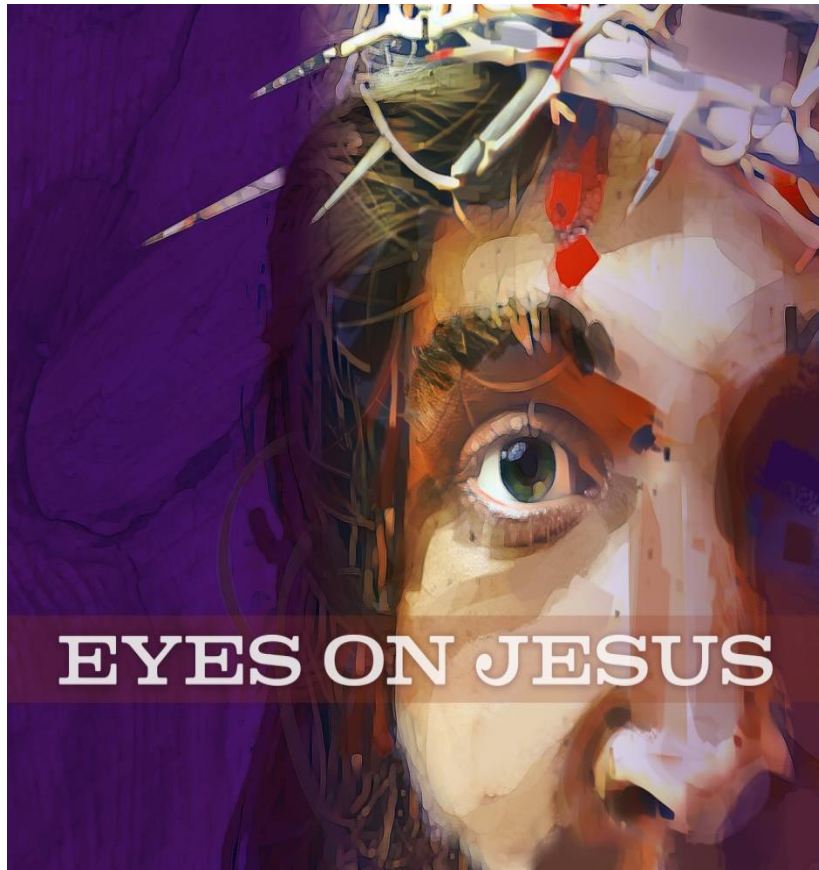


Midweek Lenten Service

February 24th, 2021 - 7 pm



*Faith Lutheran Church
310 Southdale Road East
London, ON N6E 1A1*

Betraying 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 examine the motives and means of Judas's betrayal of Jesus. Why and how have we done the same? And how does our Lord look upon us? Although we have betrayed and handed over our Lord, God has caused Holy Scripture to be handed over to us, wherein we know all our sins are forgiven, for Jesus' life was given over to death for us.

Hymn "Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face"

- 1 Our eyes behold the Savior's face
And yet cannot perceive
That His perspective held our grace
Before we could believe.
- 2 Our focus flits and fails to see
The One whose steadfast gaze
Propelled Him to the darkened tree
Enveloped in death's haze.
- 3 Our sights train on the dreadful cross.
Beneath His knowing eyes,
Our sins are bare and set for loss;
He sees us as His prize.

4 Our vision blurs with anxious tears
As Jesus' eyelids fall
To conquer sin and all our fears
And tear in two our pall.

5 Our view scans for the coming Day
That evermore grows near,
When Jesus wipes our tears away
And all is crystal clear.

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

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**

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**

P Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
C **hide me in the shadow of Your wings. Psalm 17:8**

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
C **for He will pluck my feet out of the net. Psalm 25:15**

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**

Confession

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.**

Forgiveness

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). 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.

C **Amen.**

Psalmody *Psalm 41; antiphon: v. 4*

P When a friend opposes him, David looks to the Lord for protection.

As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"

Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**

P the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

P The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;

C **in his illness You restore him to full health.**

As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"

P My enemies say of me in malice,

C **"When will he die, and his name perish?"**

P And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,

C **while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

P All who hate me whisper together about me;

C **they imagine the worst for me.**

P They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;

C **he will not rise again from where he lies."**

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted,

C **who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.**

P But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,

C **and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

P By this I know that You delight in me:

C **my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.**

P But You have upheld me because of my integrity,

C **and set me in Your presence forever.**

P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

C **from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.**

As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"

First Reading *Acts 7:48–53*

P Stephen recalls how the people rejected the prophets and have now betrayed and murdered Jesus, whom the prophets

announced beforehand.

A reading from the seventh chapter of Acts.

⁴⁸Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,

⁴⁹“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,
or what is the place of my rest?

⁵⁰Did not my hand make all these things?”

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,
⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading *2 Timothy 3:1–5*

P Paul warns Timothy that in times to come he should avoid people who will follow their own sinful desires.

A reading from the third chapter of Paul’s second letter to Timothy.

¹But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory *Mark 14:21b; 1 Peter 1:3b, 8, adapted*

P The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.
Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.**

P God has caused us to be born again to a living hope.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.
Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.**

P The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.
Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.**

Passion *Mark 14:10–21, 32, 41–46*

P This Lent, we are looking at the events of our Lord’s Passion through the eyes of some of the people who witnessed it. In order to do that today, we shall all read the words of Judas.

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

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray [Jesus] to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray Him.

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover? And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master

of the house, “The Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.

And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me. They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, ‘Is it I?’

It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born. . . . And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, Sit here while I pray. . . . And he came the third time and said to them,

Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard. And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, Rabbi! And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized Him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“*O Love, How Deep*”

#544 v. 1–2, 5

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals’ sake!
- 2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

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Sermon

“*Betraying Eyes*”

Hymn

“*Christ, the Life of All the Living*”

#420 v. 1–2, 7

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Church

- P 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. *Psalms 145:15*

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.

- C **Look on them all in Your mercy, heavenly Father.**

- P My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. *Psalms 25:15*

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.

- C **Behold their turmoil, Lord Jesus, and grant them relief and hope.**

- P His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. *Psalms 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.

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

- P I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD. *Psalms 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.

- C **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.**

- P Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings. *Psalms 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.

- C **See their struggle, O Holy Spirit, and give them strength to persevere and grow.**

- P Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! *Psalms 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.

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

P 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.

C Amen.

Prayer from Sunday

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land.

C Guide the people of Your Church that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come;

P through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Prayer for Peace

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

C 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;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

Nunc Dimittis

P Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

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.

Hymn

"Now the Light Has Gone Away"

#887

- 1 Now the light has gone away;
Father, listen while I pray,
Asking Thee to watch and keep
And to send me quiet sleep.
- 2 Jesus, Savior, wash away
All that has been wrong today;
Help me ev'ry day to be
Good and gentle, more like Thee.

- 3 Let my near and dear ones be
Always near and dear to Thee;
O bring me and all I love
To Thy happy home above.
- 4 Now my evening praise I give;
Thou didst die that I might live.
All my blessings come from Thee;
Oh, how good Thou art to me!
- 5 Thou, my best and kindest Friend,
Thou wilt love me to the end.
Let me love Thee more and more,
Always better than before.

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Dimissal

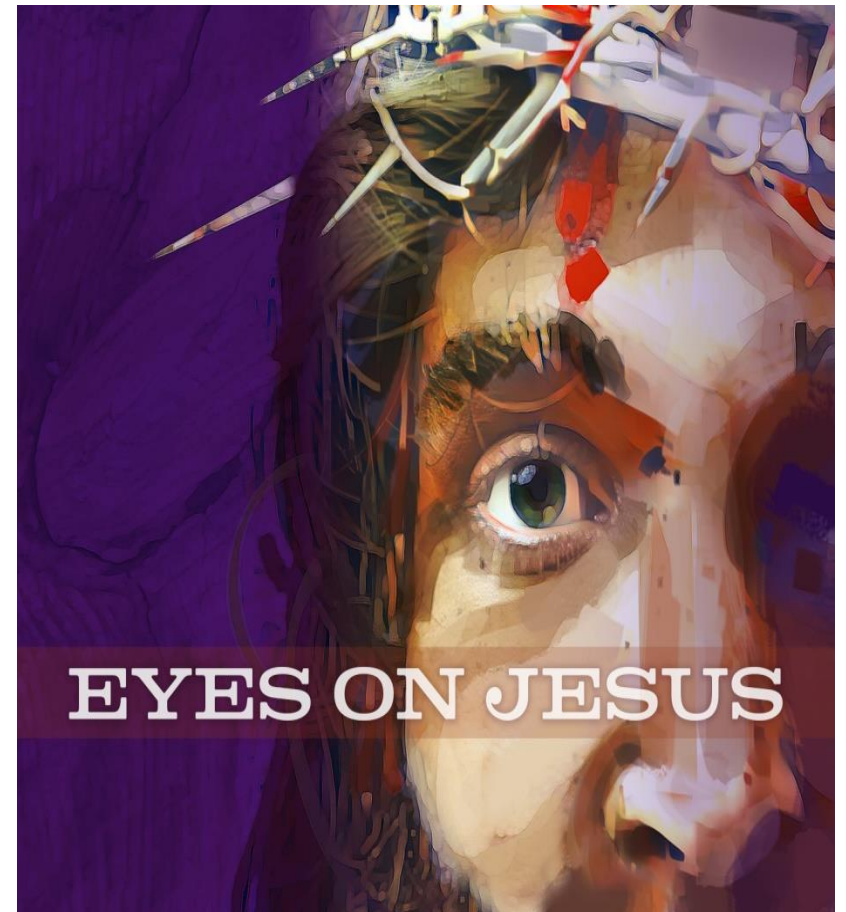
- P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

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Hymn "Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face"

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Dismissal

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Nunc Dimittis

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we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

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C **Amen.**

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of the Lord's Supper,

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

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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,

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Forgiveness

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). 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.

C Amen.

Psalmody *Psalm 41; antiphon: v. 4*

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As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”

Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

P the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

P The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;

C **in his illness You restore him to full health.**

**As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against You!”**

P My enemies say of me in malice,

C **“When will he die, and his name perish?”**

P And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,

C **while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he
tells it abroad.**

P All who hate me whisper together about me;

C **they imagine the worst for me.**

P They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him;

C **he will not rise again from where he lies.”**

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted,

C **who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.**

P But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,

C **and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

P By this I know that You delight in me:

C **my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.**

P But You have upheld me because of my integrity,

C **and set me in Your presence forever.**

P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

C **from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.**

**As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against You!”**

First Reading Acts 7:48–53

P Stephen recalls how the people rejected the prophets and have now betrayed and murdered Jesus, whom the prophets

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Church

P 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. *Psalm 145:15*

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.

C **Look on them all in Your mercy, heavenly Father.**

P My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. *Psalm 25:15*

For all who struggle with unemployment or underemployment, with poor living conditions or

Hymn "O Love, How Deep" #544 v. 1-2, 5

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

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Sermon "Betraying Eyes"

Hymn "Christ, the Life of All the Living" #420 v. 1-2, 7

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.

announced beforehand.

A reading from the seventh chapter of Acts.

⁴⁸Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands,
as the prophet says,

⁴⁹“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,
or what is the place of my rest?

⁵⁰Did not my hand make all these things?”

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears,
you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they
killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the
Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,
⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not
keep it.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 2 Timothy 3:1-5

P Paul warns Timothy that in times to come he should avoid
people who will follow their own sinful desires.

A reading from the third chapter of Paul's second letter to
Timothy.

¹But understand this, that in the last days there will come times
of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money,
proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful,
unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-
control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen
with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.
Avoid such people.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory *Mark 14:21b; 1 Peter 1:3b, 8, adapted*

- P The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him.
C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.
Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.**
- P God has caused us to be born again to a living hope.
C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.
Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.**
- P The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him.
C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.
Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.**

Passion *Mark 14:10–21, 32, 41–46*

- P This Lent, we are looking at the events of our Lord's Passion through the eyes of some of the people who witnessed it. In order to do that today, we shall all read the words of Judas.

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

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray [Jesus] to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray Him.

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover? And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master

of the house, "The Teacher says, 'Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.

And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me. They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, 'Is it I?'

It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born. . . . And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, Sit here while I pray. . . . And he came the third time and said to them,

Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard. And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, Rabbi! And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized Him.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**