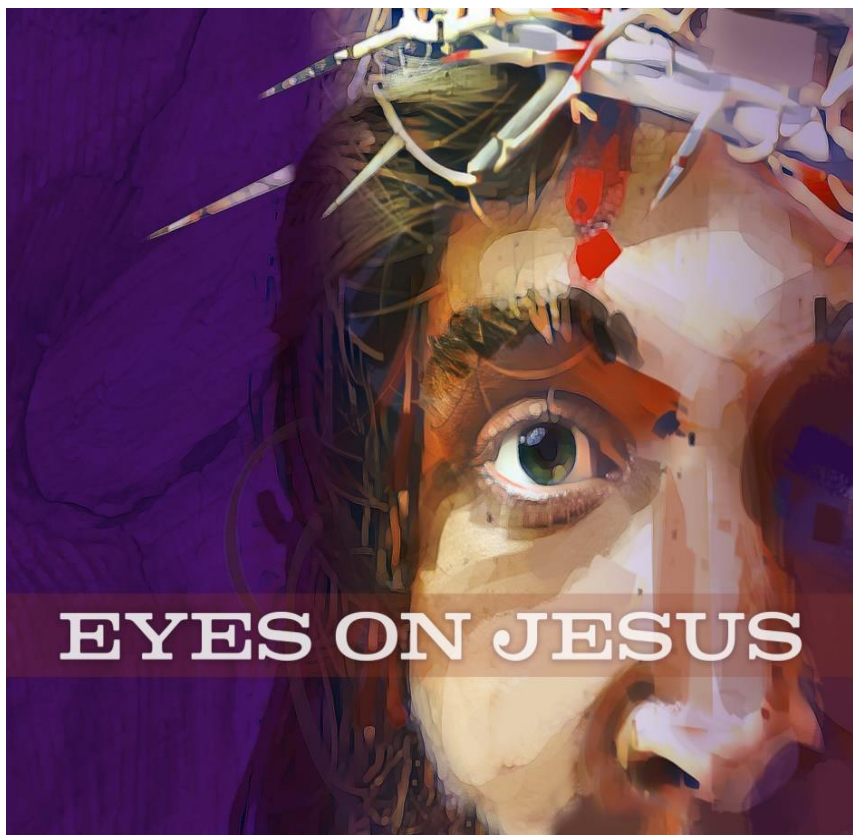


ASH WEDNESDAY

ORDER OF SERVICE

February 17th, 2021 - 7 pm



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

Eyes on Jesus: Misjudging 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 consider the disciples. They failed to see that Jesus had to leave them so He could die and rise for them and for us. And they misjudged the selfless, loving act of the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive ointment. He saw it as a beautiful, selfless act of devotion that prepared Him for burial. We need to examine ourselves, lest we seek public approval or divine reward for our good deeds. Only what our Lord has done for us makes us pleasing to the Father.

+ PREPARATION +

Invocation:

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

C Amen.

Address

P We have come to Lent again, these forty days in which to prepare for Easter, this period for introspection and

contrition. It is a time given to us to struggle against all that would distract us from seeing the sacrifice of Christ in our place, the Good News that He has paid for all our sins once for all. But we cannot respond to the Gospel as we ought or even follow the discipline of Lent—personal repentance, fasting, prayer, works of love—by our own strength. We must look to our gracious God, whose news of forgiveness alone empowers us to change. Burdened by our sin, “Scarce we lift our weeping eyes,” as our first hymn admits. Our prayer must be that our gracious heavenly Father would “Turn, O turn a fav’ring eye” to “Hear our penitential cry.” We sing hymn 419.

Hymn “*Savior, When in Dust to Thee*”

#419

- 1 Savior, when in dust to Thee
Low we bow the_adoring knee;
 When, repentant, to the skies
 Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe
Suffered once for us below,
 Bending from Thy throne on high,
 Hear our penitential cry!
- 2 By Thy helpless infant years,
By Thy life of want and tears,
 By Thy days of deep distress
 In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the_insulting tempter’s pow’r,
 Turn, O turn a fav’ring eye;
 Hear our penitential cry!
- 3 By Thine hour of dire despair,
By Thine agony of prayer,
 By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O’er the dreadful sacrifice,

Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!

- 4 By Thy deep expiring groan,
By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav'n restored,
Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

Public domain

Holy Gospel *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

P We are called to acts of piety, giving alms, praying, and fasting, especially during Lent. But Jesus warns against seeking public approval or divine reward. Our actions can only be responses to our Lord's sacrifice for us, our sins being washed away in Baptism, and the Spirit's gift of faith. Only Christ makes us pleasing to the Father.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P [Jesus said,] Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,

C that they may be praised by others.

P Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.

C And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

P And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners,

C that they may be seen by others.

P Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.

C And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

P And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces

C that their fasting may be seen by others.

P Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret.

C And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

P Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Gradual *Hebrews 12:2*

P [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

C the founder and perfecter of our faith,

P who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

C and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Old Testament Reading *Joel 2:12–19*

P Assured of God’s eternal forgiveness and His gift of daily grace, we are able to hear His call to repentance. A reading from the second chapter of Joel:

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C O Lord, have mercy.

Confession

P Let us heed our Lord’s call and go to Him in repentance.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have displayed the same errors of the people who saw our Savior during His sojourn

on earth.

With the disciples, we have misjudged the good deeds of others and have failed to see that our Lord is pleased with the loving service of His followers.

With Judas, we have betrayed our weak faith when making difficult decisions.

With the closest disciples, we have preferred physical comfort over spiritual turmoil.

With Peter, we have let Sunday's professions fade when Monday morning dawns.

With the Jewish leaders, we have allowed our personal plans to oppose God's will.

With Pilate, we have let ourselves be deceived by the world's definition of success.

With the casual observers, we have not always looked beyond what our eyes can see in the Sacrament.

With those at Golgotha, we have, at times, failed to fix our eyes on Jesus, God's Lamb.

With Jesus' followers, we have not always looked beyond what we see in the present moment.

With the women at the tomb, we have, at times, let fear keep us from telling our friends about our Lord's resurrection.

Our heavenly Father, forgive us all our sins for Jesus' sake. Help us fix our eyes on our Savior each day until we follow Him to our eternal home, where we shall see You face to face.

Absolution

P The Lord has had pity on us. He sees the weakness of our mortal nature and forgives us for Jesus' sake. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

Hymn *"Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing"* #421 v.1, 5

1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning
Keep me from its first beginning.

5 O my God, my rock and tower,
Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power
Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.

Public domain

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

C **Create in us new and contrite hearts that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness;**

P through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Epistle *2 Peter 1:2–11*

P Paul encourages us to confirm our calling and election to the kingdom of God by practicing Christian virtues in our daily living. A reading from the first chapter of Second Peter:

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **O Lord, have mercy.**

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.

Text: Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

Passion Reading *Mark 14:1–9*

- P When a woman anoints Jesus, the disciples misjudge her motives, but Jesus says she did a beautiful thing, preparing Him for burial. 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 [Jesus] by stealth and kill him, for they said,

- C Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people.**

- P And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as He was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over His head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly,

C Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.

P And they scolded her. But Jesus said, leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have Me. She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C O Lord have mercy.

Hymn *“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”*

- 1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee,
 In trial and tribulation;
 Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
 Lord, hear my supplication.
 If Thou rememb’rest ev’ry sin,
 Who then could heaven ever win
 Or stand before Thy presence?

- 2 Thy love and grace alone avail
 To blot out my transgression;
 The best and holiest deeds must fail
 To break sin’s dread oppression.
 Before Thee none can boasting stand,
 But all must fear Thy strict demand
 And live alone by mercy.

- 3 Therefore my hope is in the Lord
 And not in mine own merit;
 It rests upon His faithful Word
 To them of contrite spirit
 That He is merciful and just;

This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.

4 And though it tarry through the night
 And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might
 Nor count itself forsaken.
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.
Born of the Spirit and the Word,
 Now wait for His appearing.

5 Though great our sins, yet greater still
 Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will
 Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
 From all their sin and sorrow.

Public domain

Sermon *“Misjudging Eyes”*

Apostles Creed

**C 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.**

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 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. *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.

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. *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.

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. *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.

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! *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.

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.

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.**

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.

Address

P We have come to Lent again, these forty days in which to prepare for Easter, this period for introspection and contrition. It is a time given to us to struggle against all that would distract us from seeing the sacrifice of Christ in our place, the Good News that He has paid for all our sins once and for all. But through our hearing of the Gospel and receiving of our Lord’s body and blood, we have been strengthened for the task. Indeed, in terms of seeing our Savior by faith, we can be sure that by His grace, though we once were blind, now we see. Let us confidently sing “Amazing Grace.”

Hymn *“Amazing Grace”* #744

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
 That saved a wretch; like me!

- I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!
- 3 The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
- 4 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

*Text: Copyright © 1991 Editorial Concordia. Used by permission.
Licence #660171*

Dismissal

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

Postlude

+ + +

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.