

God's Eyes

As We Gather

This Lent, we have been using 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.

As we conclude these forty days of Lent, looking within ourselves as people of faith in our day, we again ask how we are like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh. Most important, as we gather for worship, we see again what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death.

We are standing at the foot of the cross, but there are others standing with us. Simon of Cyrene, the people who mock Jesus, and the centurion all have their eyes on the cross as well. But the only viewpoint that truly matters is that of the triune God. The Father sees our sins taken upon Jesus on the cross, the Son looks on us in forgiving mercy, and the Holy Spirit sees the message we are to proclaim. "Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2).

+ PREPARATION +

Prologue

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Fellow redeemed, there were many people watching our Lord as He finished the course He was determined to follow, His eyes set on the cross before Him. Few of the onlookers could understand what was happening. But none of them dissuaded Him from doing His Father's will—for us.

When a woman anointed Him with precious oil, the disciples complained,

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 Jesus said, "She has anointed My body beforehand for burial." Mark 14:8

When Jesus announced that one of the Twelve would betray Him, they said to Him,

C **"Is it I?"**

P He said to them, "The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him." Mark 14:21

When He told the disciples to watch and pray, they fell asleep and did not know what to answer Him. But He said, "It is enough; the hour has come." Mark 14:41

When He said that they would all fall away, Peter said to Him,

C **"Even though they all fall away, I will not." Mark 14:29**

P Jesus said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." Mark 14:30

When the high priest asked Him,

C **"Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"**

P Jesus said, "I am."

When Pilate asked Him,

C **"Are You the King of the Jews?"**

P Jesus answered him, "You have said so." Mark 15:2

When Jesus and the disciples were eating the Passover meal, He revealed to them, "This is My body; this is My blood of the covenant." Luke 14:22, 24

And when He was on the cross, and the leaders mocked Him, saying,

C **“He saved others; He cannot save Himself,”**

P He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Psalm 22:1

Today, let us fix our eyes on the cross and realize with the centurion that

C **“Truly this man was the Son of God!” Mark 15:39**

Adoration of the Cross

P (quiet) Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

P (louder) Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

P (full-voiced) Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

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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Confession and Absolution

P We have to look up to see Jesus on the cross, where we see the full measure of God’s love. But our heavenly Father looks down to where His Son gives Himself as the ultimate sacrifice, the Son looks down on us with full forgiveness, and the Spirit opens our eyes to the salvation won for us. With such awful payment made on our behalf, let us freely go to our loving God, confessing our sins.

Our Eyes Behold the Savior’s Face
Silence for reflection on the Word of God and our sinful condition.

Gracious heavenly Father,
C **we would rather cover our sins from You, our neighbors, and ourselves, but nothing is hidden from Your eyes. Exposed in our sinful condition and unable to save ourselves, we plead for Your mercy and forgiveness. Our thoughts, words, and deeds are stained with sin but because we are confident that Your Son’s blood washes them clean, we dare to ask that**

Your Holy Spirit lift our eyes to the cross, our hearts to Your will, and our minds to a new determination to serve You with all the strength You provide.

P Although creation itself mourned to see the Lord of life on the cross, the sun darkened, and tombs rent open, on the third day, the rising sun would reveal that almighty God had accepted payment for all our sins—that eternal life is open to us. 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.**

+ **WORD** +

Hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #425

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of Glory died,
 My richest gain I count but loss
 And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
 Save in the death of Christ, my God;
 All the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
 Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 That were a tribute far too small;
 Love so amazing, so divine,
 Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Lord God almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C **so strengthen our faith this day that we may fix our eyes on Jesus, ignore the views of this fallen world, and see with clarity Your love for us and all mankind;**

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

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

P Isaiah writes about how people saw our Lord during His Passion, how His Father viewed the sacrifice, and the love which was in our Savior's eyes.

The Old Testament Reading is from the 52nd and 53rd chapter of Isaiah.

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As *many were astonished at you*— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them *they see*, and that which they have not heard *they understand* . . . Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been *revealed*? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that *we should look at him*, and no beauty that we

should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and *we esteemed him not*. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet *we esteemed him* stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, *he shall see* his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul *he shall see* and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

P The Epistle is from the fifth chapter of Second Corinthians, verses 14-21.

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

#427

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

2 *Corinthians 5:14-21*

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry [Jesus'] cross. And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. And they crucified Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified Him. And the inscription of the charge against Him read, "The King of the Jews." And with Him they crucified two robbers, one on His right and one on His left. And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying,

C **"Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"**

P So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying,

C **"He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe".**

P Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him. And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus

cried with a loud voice, Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said,

C **"Behold, He is calling Elijah."**

P And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink, saying,

C **"Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down."**

P And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that in this way He breathed His last, he said,

C **"Truly this man was the Son of God!"**

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn

"Were You There"

#456 v. 1-3

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh . . .
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh . . .
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh . . .
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
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Sermon “God’s Eyes”

Bidding Prayer

P Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

P Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God:

P Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of

regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:

P Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**
Eyes on the Cross

A Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

P O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially Justin Trudeau, our Prime Minister; the Parliament of Canada; Doug Ford, our Premier; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:

P Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

P Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:

P Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:

P O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

P O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to

receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

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.**

+ **SERVICE OF DARKNESS** +

Psalm

P Jesus may have prayed Psalm 22 as He hung on the cross. Today, we will use it to "frame" the Passion. The first part reads as if describing what Jesus was observing and experiencing on the cross. The last part is the conviction of everyone who sees in Him the salvation He won for us.

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning?

C **O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**

P Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

C **In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them.**

P To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and were not put to shame.

C **But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

P All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;

C **“He trusts in the Lord; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!”**

P Yet You are He who took Me from the womb; You made Me trust You at My mother’s breasts.

C **On You was I cast from My birth, and from My mother’s womb You have been My God.**

P Be not far from Me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

C **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning?**

P Many bulls encompass Me; strong bulls of Bashan surround Me;

C **they open wide their mouths at Me, like a ravening and roaring lion.**

P I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint;

C **My heart is like wax; it is melted within My breast;**

P My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws;

C **You lay Me in the dust of death.**

P For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me;

C **they have pierced My hands and feet—**

P I can count all My bones— they stare and gloat over Me;

C **they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.**

**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of
My groaning?**

Passion

P The Passion of our Lord according to St. John, the 18th and 19th chapters.

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. So He asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one.” *John 18:1–9*

The first candle is extinguished.

P Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?”

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who

was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. *John 18:10–18*

Hymn “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” #423 v. 1, 2

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life’s desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us
Calms the sinner’s deep distress.

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P The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. Jesus answered him, “I have spoken

openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said.” When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how You answer the high priest?” Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?” Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed. *John 18:19–27*

The second candle is extinguished.

P Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you.” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?” 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.” 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.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” *John 18:28–38a*

Hymn “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” #422

1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

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P After he [Pilate] had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in Him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and

according to that law He ought to die because He has made himself the Son of God.” *John 18:38–19:7*

The third candle is extinguished.

P When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, “You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin.” From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified. *John 19:8–16a*

Hymn “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” #451 v. 1–2

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

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P So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” *John 19:16b–22*

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Reproaches *Based on Micah 6; Jeremiah 2; and Isaiah 5*

P The words of the prophets, as they were adapted for this day centuries ago, portray God’s abject sadness and dismay as He looked down on His Son on the cross.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people. *Micah 6:3–4*

C **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people. *Jeremiah 2:6–7*

C **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.**

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people. *Isaiah 5:2–4*

C **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.**

The fifth candle is extinguished.

P When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple

whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. *John 19:23–30*

A moment of silence.

Hymn

“O Perfect Life of Love” #452 v. 1-5

- 1 O perfect life of love!
All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above
To do for us below.
- 2 No work is left undone
Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one,
The Scriptures have fulfilled.
- 3 No pain that we can share
But He has felt its smart;
All forms of human grief and care
Have pierced that tender heart.
- 4 And on His thorn-crowned head
And on His sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid
That He might make us whole.
- 5 In perfect love He dies;
For me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
I cling by faith to Thee.

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- P Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on Him whom they have pierced.” *John 19:31–37*

The sixth candle is extinguished.

- P After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there. *John 19:38–42*

The Christ Candle is removed.

Psalm

- P ¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²²I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a
people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

Strepitus

*A loud sound is heard, signifying the closing of God's book.
The Christ candle is returned in recognition that God is
eternally alive.*

Collect

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please observe silence while departing.

Acknowledgments

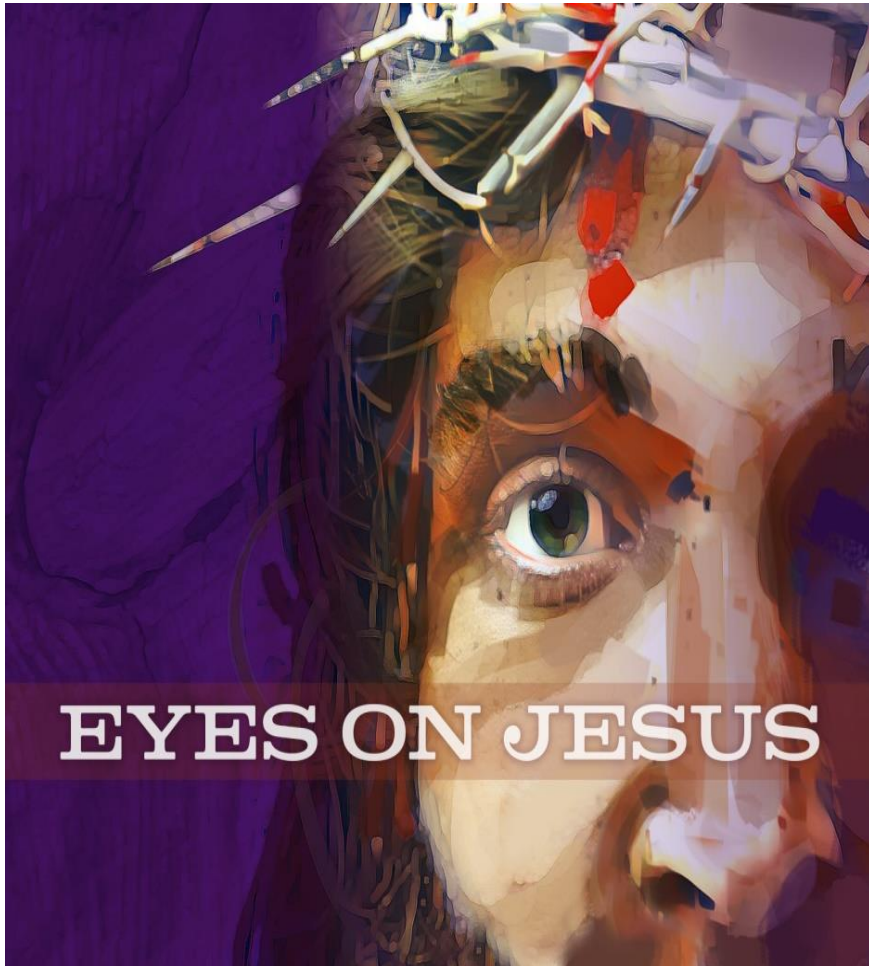
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Good Friday

April 2nd, 2021 – 10 am



*Faith Lutheran Church
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