

Mid-Week Lent Service 2020

Wednesday, April 1



Wednesday, March 4:

Wednesday, March 11:

Wednesday, March 18:

Wednesday, March 25:

Wednesday, April 1:

Maundy Thursday, April 9:

Good Friday, April 10:

Betraying Eyes

Sleepy Eyes

Denying Eyes

Murderous Eyes

Worldly Eyes

More Than Meets The Eye

God's 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.

Preservice "I'm But a Stranger Here" Flute - Becky Shifra; Piano - Marlene Rieck

I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home.

Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.

Danger and sorrow stand round me on ev'ry hand;

Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home

Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home.

And time's wild wintry blast soon shall be overpast;

I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, Heav'n is my home

Whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home.

And I shall surely stand there at my Lord's right hand;

Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

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**

First Reading: Isaiah 13:9-11

L Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Passion Reading: Mark 15:1-20

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. ⁶ ¶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹ And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. ¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of

the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: LSB 730 - What is the World to Me

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| <p>1 What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure! You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be; You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!</p> <p>2 The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty. But what I truly prize Above all things is He, My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!</p> | <p>3 The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers. I have a higher good, Content with it I'll be: My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!</p> <p>4 What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure, My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure, My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally. Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!</p> |
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Sermon

Solo "O Calvary's Lamb" Jackie Pearce

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.

- A** The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. *Psalm 145:15*
- P** 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.**
- A** My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. *Psalm 25:15*
- P** 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.**
- A** His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. *Psalm 97:4*
- P** 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.**
- A** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord. *Psalm 121:1–2a*
- P** 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.**
- A** Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings. *Psalm 17:8*
- P** 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.**
- A** Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in

Him! *Psalm 34:8*

- P** 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

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.**

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