

Mid-Week Lent Service 2020

Wednesday, March 18



Wednesday, March 4:

Betraying Eyes

Wednesday, March 11:

Sleepy Eyes

Wednesday, March 18:

Denying Eyes

Wednesday, March 25:

Murderous Eyes

Wednesday, April 1:

Worldly Eyes

Maundy Thursday, April 9:

More Than Meets The Eye

Good Friday, April 10:

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.

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 59:1-3, 12-13

L ¹Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

²but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

³For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity;
your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness.

¹²For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us;

for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:

¹³transgressing, and denying the LORD, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Passion Reading: Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹ Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." ³⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹ But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." ⁷² And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: LSB 420 - Christ the Life of All the Living v. 1, 4, 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 suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit. | Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee. |
| 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned | |

Thee.

All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me

- 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.

Text: Public domain

And with heav'nly glory crown me.

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

Sermon

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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