



Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

205 E. 7th St. Lexington, NE 68850

(308)324-4341 www.tlclx.org

Senior Pastor Rob Kuefner rkuefner@tlclx.org 308-746-2270

Visitation Pastor Bill Ohlmann wohlmann@tlclx.org 308-325-0069

Administrative Assistant Maria Rodriguez mrodriguez@tlclx.org

Supported Missionaries Rev. Chuck Ferry and Family

"Equipping Disciples to Make Disciples for Jesus"

Eyes on Jesus: Denying Eyes

Lenten Midweek 4

March 25, 2020

As We Gather

Today, we take a look at the chief priests and scribes, who saw Jesus as an obstacle to be rid of by violence. Yet, during the Passover festival, they would unwittingly bring about the sacrifice of the ultimate Passover Lamb. How, then, should we view those who oppose the Gospel in our day? And how might these insights guide our prayers?

+ PREPARATION +

Hymn

Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face

**Our eyes behold the Savior's face
And yet cannot perceive
That His perspective held our grace
Before we could believe.**

**Our focus flits and fails to see
The One whose steadfast gaze
Propelled Him to the darkened tree
Enveloped in death's haze.**

**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.**

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

**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 10:1–12; antiphon: v.12

- L** The psalm tells of the wicked intentions of evil adversaries and asks God for help.

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand; forget not the afflicted.
Why, O LORD, do You stand far away?

C **Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?**

- L** In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;

C **let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.**

- L** For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,

C **and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.**

- L** In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him;

C **all his thoughts are, "There is no God."**

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand; forget not the afflicted.

- L** His ways prosper at all times; Your judgments are on high, out of his sight;

C **as for all his foes, he puffs at them.**

- L** He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;

C **throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."**

- L** His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;

C **under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.**

- L** He sits in ambush in the villages;

C **in hiding places he murders the innocent.**

- L** His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

C **he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;**

- L** he lurks that he may seize the poor;

C **he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.**

- L** The helpless are crushed, sink down,

C **and fall by his might.**

- L** He says in his heart, “God has forgotten,
C **He has hidden His face, He will never see it.”**

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand; forget not the afflicted.

First Reading

Job 24:13–17 (ESV)

- P** Job notes how those who are evil seek to hide in darkness. A reading from the 24th chapter of Job.

¹³ “There are those who rebel against the light, who are not acquainted with its ways, and do not stay in its paths. ¹⁴ The murderer rises before it is light, that he may kill the poor and needy, and in the night he is like a thief. ¹⁵ The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight, saying, ‘No eye will see me’; and he veils his face. ¹⁶ In the dark they dig through houses; by day they shut themselves up; they do not know the light. ¹⁷ For deep darkness is morning to all of them; for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

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

Second Reading

1 John 3:11–15 (ESV)

- P** John writes that love is essential for those who have heard the Gospel. A reading from the third chapter of John’s First Letter.

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

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

Passion

Mark 14:32–42

This Lent, we are looking at the events of our Lord’s Passion through the

eyes of some of the people who witnessed it. Today, we read the words of the people who unwittingly called for Jesus' death, the sacrifice for all sin. 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. . . .

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against Him, saying,

C **We heard Him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."**

P Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?" But He remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

A *I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.*

P And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? You have heard His blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned Him as deserving death. And some began to spit on Him and to cover His face and to strike Him, saying to Him,

C **Prophecy!**

P And the guards received Him with blows.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn *Upon the Cross Extended*

LSB #453 v. 1-4, 7

**Upon the cross extended
See, world, your Lord suspended.
Your Savior yields His breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven
Himself has freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.**

**Come, see these things and ponder,
Your soul will fill with wonder
As blood streams from each pore.
Through grief beyond all knowing
From His great heart came flowing
Sighs welling from its deepest core.**

**Who is it, Lord, that bruised You?
Who has so sore abused You
And caused You all Your woe?
We all must make confession
Of sin and dire transgression
While You no ways of evil know.**

**I caused Your grief and sighing
By evils multiplying
As countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered
With which Your soul is cumbered,
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.**

**Your cross I place before me;
Its saving pow'r restore me,
Sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending,
Be guiding and attending
My way to Your eternal rest.**

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Sermon

Murderous Eyes

Offering- *We won't take time for an offering, but please consider dropping off your offering or mailing it to the church. You can also give online on our church website. Click on Giving tab or the photo with the words Donate Now.*

Canticle

☐ We will use hymn 420 as the canticle for each of our midweek Lenten services. Today's second stanza thanks our Lord for taking the false accusations and gaining our freedom and security.

Hymn

Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB #420 v. 1, 5, 7

**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.**

**Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**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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Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the Church around the world, ourselves, and all people in their various needs.

Brief silence

(Each petition will close with; **Lord, in Your mercy...** and the congregation replies: **hear our prayer.**)

- 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.**

Hymn *O Christ, You Walked the Road*

LSB #424

**O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.**

**No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.**

**No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.**

**When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.**

**O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.**

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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

Closing Hymn *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

LSB #575

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. *Refrain***

Refrain **On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain**

**His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain**

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain**

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Preacher: Pastor Rob Kuefner
Organist: Chuck Messerschmidt
Singers: Debra Wells and Maydelle Messerschmidt
Videographer: Don Batie