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"Equipping Disciples to Make Disciples for Jesus"

Eyes on Jesus: Denying Eyes

Lenten Midweek 5

April 1, 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 2; antiphon: v.4

- L** The psalmist writes of the folly of those who oppose the Lord and His Anointed.

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD holds them in derision.

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

- C** **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,**

- L** against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

- C** **Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."**

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD holds them in derision.

- L** Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,

- C** **"As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill."**

- L** I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son;

- C** **today I have begotten You.**

- L** Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage,

- C** **and the ends of the earth Your possession.**

- L** You shall break them with a rod of iron

- C** **and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**

- L** Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

- C** **be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

- L** Serve the LORD with fear,

- C** **and rejoice with trembling**

- L** Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled.

C Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD holds them in derision.

First Reading

Isaiah 13:9–11 (ESV)

P Isaiah foretells punishment for the world's wickedness.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

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 15:1–20

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 find ourselves speaking the words of the chief priests and the soldiers,

the groups who called for Jesus' execution and ironically called Him "King."

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.

P 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. And Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And He answered him,

A ***You have said so.***

P And the chief priests accused Him of many things. And Pilate again asked Him, "Have You no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against You." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered Him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again,

C **Crucify Him.**

P And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more,

C **Crucify Him.**

P So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. And the soldiers led Him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed Him in a purple cloak, and

twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on Him. And they began to salute Him,

C Hail, King of the Jews!

P And they were striking His head with a reed and spitting on Him and kneeling down in homage to Him. 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn *What Is the World to Me*

LSB #730

**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!**

**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!**

**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!**

**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!**

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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

P We will use hymn 420 as the canticle for each of our midweek Lenten services. Today's second stanza sings a thousand thanks to our Lord for deciding to go to the cross to atone for our sins.

Hymn

Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB #420 v. 1, 6, 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 great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,**

**Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
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 *Abide with Me*

LSB #878 v. 1,4-6

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

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Nunc Dimittis

¶ 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 *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful*

LSB #554

**O Jesus, King most wonderful!
O Conqueror renowned!**

**O Source of peace ineffable,
In whom all joys are found:**

**When once You visit darkened hearts,
Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs,
Then kindles love divine.**

**O Jesus, light of all below,
The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
All that we can desire:**

**May ev'ry heart confess Your name,
Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame
To seek You more and more!**

**Oh, may our tongues forever bless,
May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express
The image of Your own!**

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