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"Equipping Disciples to Make Disciples for Jesus"

Good Friday

Eyes on Jesus: God's Eyes

April 10, 2020

As We Gather

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,

A *She has anointed My body beforehand for burial. Mark 14:8*

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

C **Is it I?**

P He said to them,

A *The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him. Mark 14:21*

P When He told the disciples to watch and pray, they fell asleep and did not know what to answer Him. But He said,

A *It is enough; the hour has come. Mark 14:41*

P 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,

A *Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times. Mark 14:30*

P When the high priest asked Him,

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

P Jesus said,

A *I am.*

P When Pilate asked Him,

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

P Jesus answered him,

A *You have said so. Mark 15:2*

P When Jesus and the disciples were eating the Passover meal, He revealed to them,

A *This is My body; this is My blood of the covenant. Luke 14:22, 24*

P 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,

A *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Psalm 22:1*

P 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**

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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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.

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross **LSB #425 v. 1, 3**

**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.**

**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?**

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Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

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 he has 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 pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—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 guilt, 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

2 Corinthians 5:14–21

P The Epistle is from the fifth chapter of Second Corinthians.

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and 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. ¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For 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

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LSB #449

**O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.**

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.**

**What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.**

**Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.**

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Sermon

God's Eyes

Offering- *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.*

Lord's Prayer

P 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 +

Hymn

We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died LSB #429 v. 1, 6

**We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the cross.
The sinner's hope let all deride;
For this we count the world but loss.**

**To Christ, who won for sinners grace
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore.**

Text: Public domain

Passion

John 18:1 – 19:42

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.

- ☐ 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

LSB #423 v, 1, 3

**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.**

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew**

**Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

Text: Public domain

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

422 *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

**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!**

Text: Public domain

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

LSB #451 v. 1-2

**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.**

**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.**

Text: Public domain

- 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

- L** 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.
- 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 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

LSB #452

**O perfect life of love!
All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above
To do for us below.**

**No work is left undone
Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one,
The Scriptures have fulfilled.**

Text: Public domain

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.

Streptitus

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 a moment of silence at home before returning to your home activities.

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