

Eyes on Jesus: Denying Eyes

March 18, 2020 Worship

Broadcast over Facebook LIVE

On:

christlutheranchippewafalls

Facebook page

As We Gather

During these Wednesdays in Lent, we are using 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.

At first, Peter and the other disciples cannot see how they could ever fall away from Jesus. Then, when Peter is spotted by a servant girl and realizes that his own neck is on the line, he sees fit to deny Jesus, which leads to his weeping in remorse. What does it take for us to move beyond our own remorse to the discipleship we and our Lord desire?

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Hymn

Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face

- 1 Our eyes behold the Savior's face
And yet cannot perceive
That His perspective held our grace
Before we could believe.
- 2 Our focus flits and fails to see
The One whose steadfast gaze
Propelled Him to the darkened tree
Enveloped in death's haze.

- 3 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.
- 4 Our vision blurs with anxious tears
As Jesus' eyelids fall
To conquer sin and all our fears
And tear in two our pall.
- 5 Our view scans for the coming Day
That evermore grows near,
When Jesus wipes our tears away
And all is crystal clear.

Text: Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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

Isaiah laments how Israel has been denying the Lord.
A reading from the 59th chapter of Isaiah.

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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

2 Timothy 2:8–13

Paul reminds us that God and His Word can always be trusted.

A reading from the second chapter of Paul's Second Letter to Timothy.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading

Mark 8:27–36

Jesus commends Peter's profession of faith but rebukes him for trying to deny what Jesus has just prophesied.

A reading from the eighth chapter of Mark.

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

1 Peter 3:15a, 14a; 1:8 adapted

P In your hearts, honor Christ the Lord as holy.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.**

Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.

P If you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.**

Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.

P In your hearts, honor Christ the Lord as holy.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.**

Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.

Passion

Mark 14:26–31, 66–72

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 echo the brave words of Peter and the disciples (for "they all said the same"), as well as Peter's denials. Do we also reflect Peter's remorse, or have we hidden our faults even from ourselves?

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the 14th chapter.

²⁶ 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.

⁶⁶ 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.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

LSB #560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

- 1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gift for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.
- 2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.

- 3 Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.
- 4 And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.
- 5 Our view scans for the coming Day
That evermore grows near,
When Jesus wipes our tears away
And all is crystal clear.

Sermon

Denying Eyes

Prayer of the Church

Prayer from Sunday

- P Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways
- C **and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word;**
- P through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Prayer for Peace

- P Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
- C **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**
- P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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.**

BENEDICTION

Hymn

LSB 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilty may estimate;
Mark the sacrifice appointed,

See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

- 4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.