



*“O come, let us fix our eyes on **Jesus**,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him
endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of
the throne of God.”*

(Gradual for Lent, based on Hebrews 12:2)

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Midweek of Lent 5

April 1, 2020

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 are gathered in the Lord's presence 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.

Today, we learn of Pilate's worldly view and how, to keep his position and placate the Jewish leaders and crowd, he handed Jesus over for crucifixion. The soldiers saw the opposite of a worldly king, but their ironic hailing of Him as "King of the Jews" proclaims who He really is. The world looks for power and glory; God's way is suffering and the cross. Which way do we look in the daily decisions we make?

Invocation

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

C Amen.

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, and we have failed to see that He is pleased with the loving service of His followers.

A *Judas betrayed Jesus out of fear and for financial gain, 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, and we have preferred physical comfort over spiritual turmoil.

A *Peter failed to keep his bold promise of faithfulness to save his skin, 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, and He went to the cross because of our sins as well.

A *Pilate wanted to keep his political position, the soldiers saw only a weak man on the cross, 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, and we have not always looked beyond what our eyes can see in the Sacrament.

A *His Father forsook Jesus on the cross as He took all the punishment we deserve, 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, and we have not always looked beyond our physical health or longevity.

A *The angel proclaimed Jesus' resurrection to the women, 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

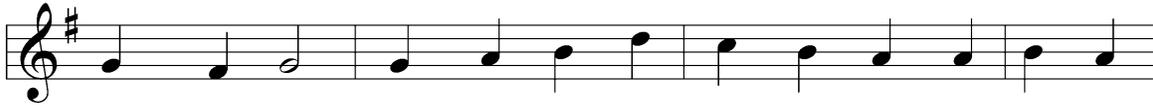
Hymn:

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB # 423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

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First Reading:

Isaiah 13:9-11

ESV

- P Isaiah foretells punishment for the world's wickedness. *A reading from the 13th chapter of Isaiah.*
[Thus saith the Lord:] 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. 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. 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 2:15-17

ESV

- P We must choose between the things of this world and the will of God. *A reading from the 2nd chapter of First John.*
Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions – is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
- P O Lord, have mercy on us. C Thanks be to God.

Third Reading:

John 18:33-38

ESV

- P Jesus contrasts His kingdom with that of Pilate and the world. *A reading from the 18th chapter of the Gospel according to John.*
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?”
After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in Him.”
- P O Lord, have mercy on us. C Thanks be to God.

P 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 reading 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, "You have said so."

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, "Crucify Him!"

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

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, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

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.

P In the following hymn, we sing of our focusing on Jesus, our treasure, rather than the world's vaunted pleasure.

Hymn of the Day:

“What Is the World to Me”

Public Domain: *LSB # 730*



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

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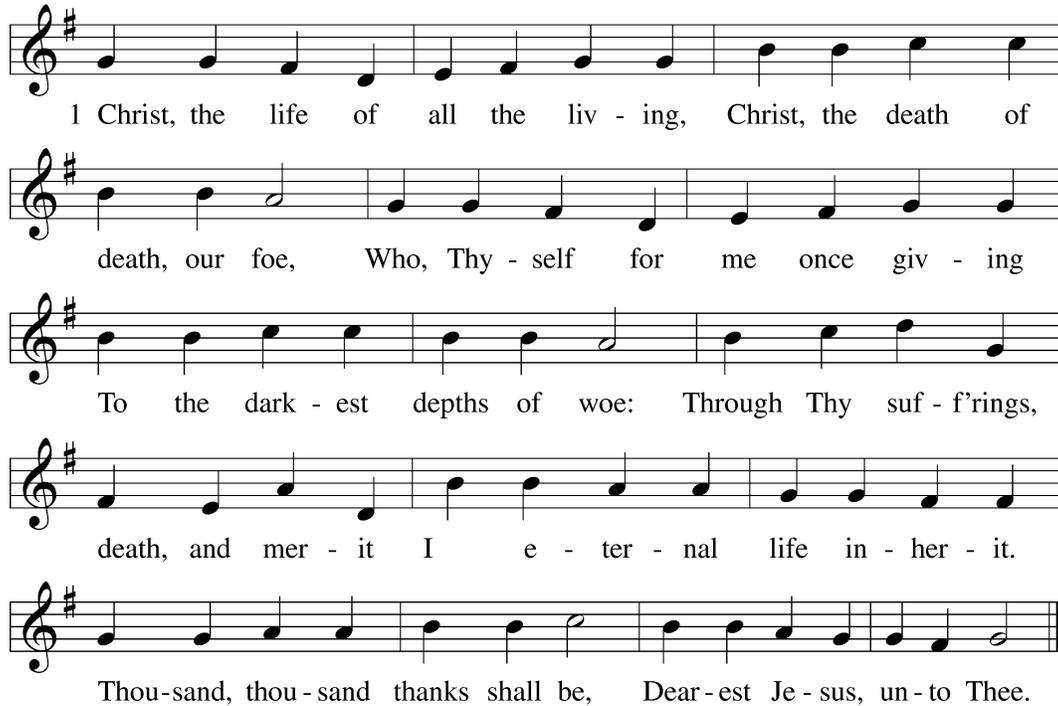
Sermon:

“Worldly Eyes”

Mark 15:1-20

P We are using hymn 420 as the canticle for each of our midweek Lenten services. Today the 6th stanza sings a thousand, thousand thanks to our Lord for deciding to go to the cross to atone for our sins.

Canticle: "Christ, the Life of All the Living" Public Domain; *LSB # 420:1, 6, 7*



I Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
 death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

6. 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.

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.

Prayers of the Church

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

A *Lord, You have said: The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season.* Ps 145:15

P Therefore, we pray for farmers and ranchers and those who bring food to market, that You would provide favorable weather, bountiful harvests, and relief from both drought and flood. Look on them all in Your mercy, heavenly Father.

A *Lord, You led King David to say of You: My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.* Psalm 25:15

P Therefore, we pray for all who struggle with unemployment or underemployment; with poor living conditions or displacement from home; with personal demons or ill health, including the corona virus or CoVid19. Behold their turmoil, Lord Jesus, and grant them relief and hope.

A *Lord, You led the Psalmist to say of You: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord.* Ps 121:1-2a

P Therefore, we pray for all who serve the You as they care for others, especially those who are in harm's way because of the corona virus or CoVid19: medical personnel and first responders, counselors and advisers, in addition to friends and neighbors. 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 *Lord, You led the Psalmist to say of You: His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.*

Psalm 97:4

P Therefore, we pray for all people in authority over communities and countries, all whose decisions affect the climate of the planet and the health of its inhabitants – especially in dealing with the current pandemic, and all who are charged to maintain justice within their borders and peace among nations. Gaze upon Your servants, O Lord; protect and guide them that they may serve with wisdom, compassion, and courage.

A *Lord, You led King David to pray to You: Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.*

Psalm 17:8

P Therefore, we pray for the members of Your body around the world, as pastors and lay people seek to proclaim the Gospel and faithfully endeavor to share their faith, especially in the face of persecution and for some the threat of martyrdom. See their struggle, O Holy Spirit, and give them strength to grow and to persevere unto life everlasting. ■►

A *Lord, You led King David to say of You: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!* *Psalm 34:8*

P Therefore, we pray for the Church, wherever You gather it around Word and Sacrament, whether face-to-face or in our own homes, grant us to rely on Your steadfast love and faithfulness and to look forward to the fulfillment of all Your gracious promises. Watch over Your Church, Lord Jesus; protect and defend us until that day we see You face to face.

P Almighty and loving Father, guide and bless all of the members of our Mt. Olive Lutheran School community – faculty, staff, students, and families – as we continue in an online teaching and learning mode. Lord, in Your mercy:

A *hear our prayer.*

P Almighty and loving Father, according to the promise of Your holy Word all things are possible for You. We ask that You would quickly end the pandemic that we are facing and that You would again grant us the abundant life that You desire for us all. Lord, in Your mercy:

A *hear our prayer.*

At this time other petitions, spoken or silent, may be prayed, each ending:

P ... Lord, in Your mercy, A *hear our prayer.*

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom and for which we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Collect for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

P Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

P Although we see Jesus as our King, we need His help so that others may see “our lives express the image” of Jesus’ love, as in the last stanza of the following hymn.

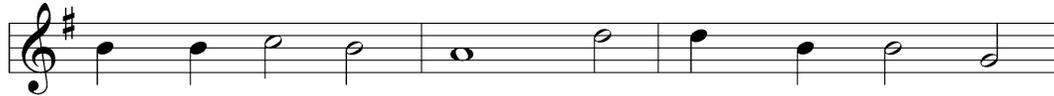
Closing Hymn:

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

LSB # 528



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He
5 Look un - to Him, ye na - tions; own Your



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my
sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the
God, ye fall - en race. Look and be saved through



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!
foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.
faith a - lone, Be jus - ti - fied by grace.

7. To God all glory, praise, and love • Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above • The Church in earth and heav'n.

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Benediction

P The blessing of almighty God – the Father, who saw mankind’s hopeless condition; the T 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. Amen.

Announcements

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments:

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