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Good Friday

April 10, 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.

As we conclude these forty days of Lent, looking within ourselves as people of faith in our day, we again ask how we are like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh. Most important, as we gather for worship, we see again what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death.

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).

Our Easter Sunday worship will seem even more extraordinarily out of sync with our expectations and prior experiences than have the other online services that we have had to date. We will not be able to gather here in God's house for the high point of the church year because of the CoVid-19 pandemic. Although we cannot be gathered here in the Lord's house for our Lord's Supper, we will be offering the Supper on a drive through basis on Holy Saturday evening at 5:00 pm and on Easter Sunday morning at 9:00 am. Please see the email blast you were recently sent or our website for instructions on how we will safely accomplish the drive through communion distribution.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Hymn:

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

LSB # 419:1, 3

1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

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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.

- P When a woman anointed Him with precious oil, the disciples complained, 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.
- A *Jesus said, "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, "Is it I?"
- A *He said to them, "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.
- A *But He said, "It is enough; the hour has come."* Mark 14:41
- P When He said that they would all fall away, Peter said to Him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not."
- A *Jesus said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."* Mark 14:30
- P When the high priest asked Him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"
- A *Jesus said, "I am."*
- P When Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"
- A *Jesus answered him, "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,
- A *"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
- A *"Truly this man was the Son of God!"* Mark 15:39

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.

P 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 Jesus, in His stead and by His command, 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



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

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Prayer of the Day

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. Amen.

The Song of God's Suffering Servant

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 chapters of Isaiah.*

P 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 they 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 wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes 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 sin, 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. Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

ESV

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

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; and 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.

From 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. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He [God] made Him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him [Jesus] we might become the righteousness of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

“Praise to You and Adoration”

LSB # 692



I Praise to You and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,



Son of God, Who, to serve Your own cre - a - tion, Came to



share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I nev - er may



From Your fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and



joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Your steps are lead - ing. ■■■▶

2 Hold me ev - er in Your keep - ing; Com - fort me in
 pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing Be with
 me through - out my life. Give me great - er love for You,
 And my faith and hope re - new In Your birth, Your
 life, and pas - sion, In Your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

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Holy Gospel:

Mark 15:21-39

ESV

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.* Glory to You, O Lord.

P And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry [Jesus'] cross. And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. And they crucified Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour [9:00 am] when they crucified Him. And the inscription of the charge against Him read, "The King of the Jews." And with Him they crucified two robbers, one on His right and one on His left.

And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!

So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him.

And when the sixth hour [Noon] had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour [3:00 pm]. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, He is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down."

And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that in this way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn:

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

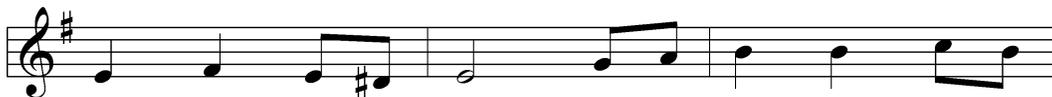
LSB # 451



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
 3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
 His? Friends through fear, His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
 great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - spect - ed
 sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
 guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I
 wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
 point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
 deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
 Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, 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.

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Sermon: "Eyes on the Cross"

Mark 14:22-25

Apostles' Creed

P We confess our Christian faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray together:

C Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

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 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. Amen.
- P In the midst of plagues and enemies that threaten and a world filled with conflict and terror, give us wise leaders at the local, state, and national levels, O Lord, that we may be preserved from harm. Guide those who make and administer our laws and regulations to act in timely and prudent ways, and give to all judges knowledge to render justice with mercy. Bless all military, emergency and medical workers who defend and help us here and abroad; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- P Have mercy, Lord, spare Your people and turn this pandemic away! Preserve the sick, comfort the fearful and grant to the dying and those who mourn them Your peace. Hear us on behalf of all those who have asked us to pray for them. Give us healing in accordance with Your will, strength to bear up under the burdens of this mortal life, and comfort and hope in this and every trial; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

P ... through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- P Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give T you His peace. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

LSB # 449:1-3



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.

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Dismissal

T T T

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