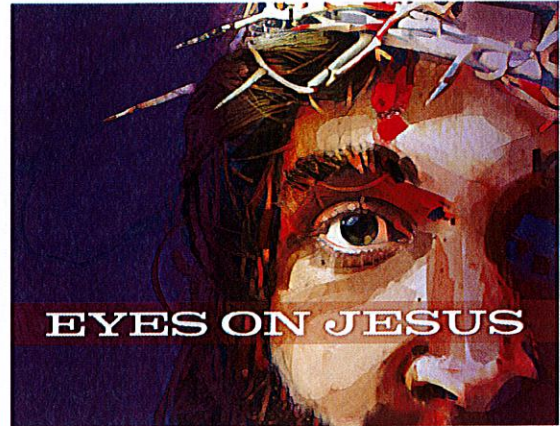


Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod



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Online Worship Service

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Welcome To Our Guest

It is a great joy to have you here tonight. We pray that your time with us has helped to deepen your faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. If we can be of service to you or your family, we invite you to talk to us at your convenience. You will always be welcome here. Please do us the honor of signing the guest sheet at the podium at the front of the church or at the entrance from the education wing.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

March 25, 2020

Online Worship Service

Eyes on Jesus: Murderous Eyes

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 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.

Tonight, 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?

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WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: “Grant, Lord Jesus, that My Healing” LW 95, vs. 1 & 5

**Grant, Lord Jesus, that my healing
In Your holy wounds I find.
Cleanse my spirit, will, and feeling;
Heal my body, soul, and mind.
When some evil thought within
Tempts my wayward heart to sin,
Work in me for its eviction,
Weighted by Your crucifixion.**

Jesus, rock of strength, my tower,
In Your death I put my trust.
When You died, death lost its power,
When You rose, it turned to dust.
Let Your bitter agony,
Suffered for us, comfort me.
Dying, Lord, in its protection,
I have life and resurrection.

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INVOCATION

E: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

E: 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.

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.**

E: Judas betrayed Jesus out of fear and for financial gain,

C: **and we have betrayed our weak faith in Him when making difficult decisions.**

E: Jesus' closest disciples gave in to sleep rather than watching and praying,

C: **and we have preferred physical comfort over spiritual turmoil.**

E: 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.**

E: 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.**

E: 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.**

E: 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.**

E: 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.**

- E: 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.**
- E: 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

- E: "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*). In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C: Amen.**

PASSION

Mark 14:1, 53-65

- E: This Lent, we are looking at the events of our Lord's Passion through the eyes of some of the people who witnessed it. Tonight, we read the words of the people who unwittingly called for Jesus' death, the sacrifice for all sin. The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the 14th chapter. It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest [Jesus] by stealth and kill Him. . . .
- And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against Him, saying,
- C: We heard Him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."**
- E: Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?" But He remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"
- I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.

And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? You have heard His blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned Him as deserving death. And some began to spit on Him and to cover His face and to strike Him, saying to Him,

C: Prophecy!

E: And the guards received Him with blows.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (refrain)

(sit)

THE MEDITATION

David Dille, Elder

OFFERTORY: "The Love of God"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season.

Psalms 145:15

For farmers and ranchers and those who bring food to market, that God would provide favorable weather, bountiful harvests, and relief from both drought and flood, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Look on them all in Your mercy, heavenly Father.

E: My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.

Psalms 25:15

For all who struggle with unemployment or underemployment, with poor living conditions or displacement from home, with personal demons or ill health, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Behold their turmoil, Lord Jesus, and grant them relief and hope.

E: His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. *Psalms 97:4*

For all people in authority over communities and countries, all whose decisions affect the climate of the planet and the health of its inhabitants, and all who are charged to maintain justice within their borders and peace among nations, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Gaze upon Your servants, O Lord; protect and guide them that they may serve with wisdom, compassion, and courage.

E: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord. *Psalms 121:1–2a*

For all who serve the Lord as they care for others—medical personnel and first responders, counselors and advisers, friends and neighbors, professionals and volunteers—let us pray to the Lord.

C: 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.

E: Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.
Psalm 17:8

For the Church around the world, as clergy and lay leaders seek to proclaim the Gospel and faithfully endeavor to share their faith, especially in the face of persecution, let us pray to the Lord.

C: See their struggle, O Holy Spirit, and give them strength to persevere and grow.

E: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! *Psalm 34:8*

For the Church, wherever it gathers around Word and Sacrament, relying on God's steadfast love and faithfulness, and looking forward to the fulfillment of all His gracious promises, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Watch over Your Church, Lord Jesus; protect and defend us until that day we see You face to face.

E: 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

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace.

CLOSING SONG: "How Deep The Father's Love For Us"

E: Go in peace and

C: serve the Lord.

OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

Acknowledging the great gift of God the Father in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior, we the people of Ascension Lutheran Church, as guided by the Holy Spirit, are committed to the furtherance of God's Kingdom. We will share and live the Gospel in our homes, our church, our community, and the world. Motivated by Christ's love for us, we are dedicated to spiritual growth and unity, worship and fellowship, and compassionate service. We recognize this as our common purpose and pray that God will enable us by His strength and wisdom to seek His will.



