



“Murderous Eyes”

March 25, 2020

Lenten Service IV

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.

Today, 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?

Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Greeting

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*

There is A Name I Love to Hear

Frederick Whitfield

1. There is a name I love to hear; I
2. It tells me of a Sav - ior's love, Who
3. It tells of one whose lov - ing heart Can
love to sing its worth. It sounds like mu - sic
died to set me free: It tells me of His
feel my deep - est woe, Who in each sor - row
in my ear, the sweet - est name on earth.
pre - cious blood, The sin - ner's per - fect plea.
bears a part That none can bear be - low.
Oh, how I love Je - sus. Oh, how I love Je - sus.
Oh, how I love Je - sus Be - cause He first loved me.

Psalmody

Psalm 10:1-12

P The psalm tells of the wicked intentions of evil adversaries and asks God for help.

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand; forget not the afflicted.
Why, O LORD, do You stand far away?

C **Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?**

P In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;

C **let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.**

P For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,

C **and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.**

P In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him;

C **all his thoughts are, "There is no God."**

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand; forget not the afflicted.

P His ways prosper at all times; Your judgments are on high, out of his sight;

C **as for all his foes, he puffs at them.**

P He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;

C **throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."**

P His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;

C **under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.**

P He sits in ambush in the villages;

C **in hiding places he murders the innocent.**

P His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

C **he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;**

P he lurks that he may seize the poor;

C **he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.**

P The helpless are crushed, sink down,

C **and fall by his might.**

P He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,

C **He has hidden His face, He will never see it."**

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand; forget not the afflicted.

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

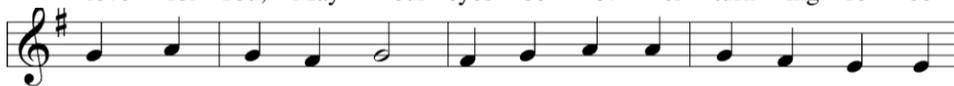
LSB 423



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.

Tune and text: Public domain

First Reading

1 John 3:11-24

P John writes that love is essential for those who have heard the Gospel.

A reading from the third chapter of John's First Letter.

¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 14:1, 53-65

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 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,

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."

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, "Prophesy!"

And the guards received Him with blows.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Responsory

Hebrews 9:11; Mark 14:62; 1 Peter 1:8, adapted

P Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come.

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.

How Deep The Father's Love For Us by Stuart Townend

**How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory**

**Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished**

**I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Alleluia.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C To You, O Lord.

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting 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.

Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Abide with Me

LSB 878



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still if Thou a - bide with me!
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.

Worship Leaders:	Pastor Chris A. Spelbring, Proclaiming Pastor Pastor Brian E. Downs, Presiding Pastor
Piano/Vocals:	Dawn Tayon, Heather Pittman