EYES ON JESUS

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE
APRIL 1, 2020

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1572 CR 211
Giddings, TX  78942
Worldly Eyes

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)

When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases, people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, based on the Gospel according to St. Mark, will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him—and how we should view Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.

In the fifth week of Lent, we look through the “Worldly Eyes” of Pilate, the Jewish leaders, and the Roman soldiers. Pilate can only view matters in a worldly, pragmatic way, wishing to placate the worldly Jewish leaders and crowd, so he consents to handing Jesus over for crucifixion. The soldiers see 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.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN OF INVOCATION:** ♫“GLORY BE TO JESUS”

1 Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
   Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins!

2 Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
   Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

3 Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
   Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!

4 Abel’s blood for vengeance Plead the skies;
   But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
   Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
   Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

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**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

PSALM

P Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
C The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”
P He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
C Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”
P I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
C Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
P You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
C Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
P Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

READING

ISAIAH 13:9–11

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 13.
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.

1 JOHN 2:15–17

A reading from 1 John, chapter 2.
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.

MARK 15:1–20

A reading from Mark, chapter 15.
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.

O Lord, have mercy on us.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY
P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.
P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.
P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

SERMON 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.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

OFFERING

I would like to remind those listening that you can mail in your offerings or drop them by the church office. We will have a box available inside the front door.

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

COLLECTS

O Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

COLLECT FOR LENT

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

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.
**BENEDICAMUS**

P  Let us bless the Lord.

C  Thanks be to God.

**BENEDICTION**

P  The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C  Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:**  ♫“LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS”  

*LSB 685*

1  Let us ever walk with Jesus,
   Follow His example pure,
   Through a world that would deceive us
   And to sin our spirits lure.
   Onward in His footsteps treading,
   Pilgrims here, our home above,
   Full of faith and hope and love,
   Let us do the Father’s bidding.
   Faithful Lord, with me abide;
   I shall follow where You guide.

2  Let us suffer here with Jesus
   And with patience bear our cross.
   Joy will follow all our sadness;
   Where He is, there is no loss.
   Though today we sow no laughter,
   We shall reap celestial joy;
   All discomforts that annoy
   Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
   Jesus, here I share Your woe;
   Help me there Your joy to know.

3  Let us gladly die with Jesus.
   Since by death He conquered death,
   He will free us from destruction,
   Give to us immortal breath.
   Let us mortify all passion
   That would lead us into sin;
   And the grave that shuts us in
   Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
   Jesus, here with You I die,
   There to live with You on high.
Let us also live with Jesus.
   He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
   Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
   Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
   Living there with You forever.
   Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.