

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?

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 10:1–12; antiphon: v. 12

- P** Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;
forget not the afflicted.
- C** **Why, O LORD, do You stand afar off?
Why do You hide yourself in times of trouble?**
- P** In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;
let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.
- C** **For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.
In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him;
all his thoughts are, "There is no God."**
- P** His ways prosper at all times;
Your judgments are on high, out of his sight;
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.
- C** **He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;
throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."**
- P** His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.
- C** **He sits in ambush in the villages;
in hiding places he murders the innocent.
His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;**
- P** he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;
he lurks that he may seize the poor;
he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.
- C** **The helpless are crushed,
sink down, and fall by his might.**
- P** He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,
He has hidden His face, He will never see it."
- C** **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.**
- P** Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;
forget not the afflicted.

437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
 2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
 5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
 groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
 shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y,
 His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
 debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
 grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.
 thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
 self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

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Readings

Reading

Job 24:13–17

L A reading from Job, chapter 24.

¹³“There are those who rebel against the light,
 who are not acquainted with its ways,
 and do not stay in its paths.

¹⁴The murderer rises before it is light,
 that he may kill the poor and needy,
 and in the night he is like a thief.

¹⁵The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight,
 saying, ‘No eye will see me’;
 and he veils his face.

¹⁶In the dark they dig through houses;
 by day they shut themselves up;
 they do not know the light.

¹⁷For deep darkness is morning to all of them;
 for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

1 John 3:11–15

L A reading from 1 John, chapter 3.

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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Mark 14:1, 53–65

L A reading from Mark, chapter 14.

¹It 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 him by stealth and kill him,

⁵³And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together.

⁵⁴And 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. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸“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.’”

⁵⁹Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰And 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?” ⁶¹But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶²And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Murderous Eyes

Canticle

935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

sts. 1, 4



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;
Firm is His prom - ise, and His mer - cy sure.



Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;
Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.
To chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

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Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Collects

Collect of the Day

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

Collect

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

L O Christ,

C have mercy.

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

L O Christ,

C hear us.

L God the Father in heaven,

C have mercy.

L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C have mercy.

L God the Holy Spirit,

C have mercy.

L Be gracious to us.

C Spare us, good Lord.

L Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

L From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

C Good Lord, deliver us.

L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by
Your precious death and burial;

By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

L We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our [*president/queen/king*] and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

L O Christ,

C hear us.

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

L O Christ,

C have mercy.

L O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

Collect for Peace

L 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.

C Amen.

877 God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven



1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:
2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,
3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,
△ 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, All - ho - ly Son,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your
May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - bey. From the
May we in Your might - y keep - ing All peace - ful lie. When the
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,
pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,
last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,
grace, we now im - plore You, Till we lay our crowns be - fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.
Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.
But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.
And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.

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Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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