

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 learn of Pilate's worldly view and how, to keep his position and placate the Jewish leaders and crowd, he handed Jesus over for crucifixion. The soldiers saw 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. Which way do we look in the daily decisions we make?

Vespers

LSB 229

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

- 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 2

- L** 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.”**
- L** 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.”**
- L** 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.**
- L** 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.

L Kiss the Son,
 lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
 for his wrath is quickly kindled.
 Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

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.

L Why do the nations rage
 and the peoples plot in vain?

730 What Is the World to Me



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
 2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
 3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
 Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
 Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
 My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
 But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
 I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
 My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
 My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
 My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
 Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

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Readings

Reading

L A reading from Isaiah, chapter 13.

⁹Behold, 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.

¹⁰For 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.

Isaiah 13:9–11

¹¹I 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

1 John 2:15–17

L A reading from 1 John, chapter 2.

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Mark 15:1–20

L A reading from Mark, chapter 15.

¹And 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. ²And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” ³And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” ⁵But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹²And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” ¹⁴And Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

¹⁶And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰And 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory (Lent)

LSB 231

L 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.**

L 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.**

L 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

Worldly Eyes

Canticle

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

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



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



Un-num-bered bless-ings, give my spir-it voice;
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
Pow'rs and do-min-ions lay their glo-ry by.
Firm is His prom-ise, and His mer-cy sure.



Ten-der to me the prom-ise of His Word;
His mer-cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub-born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav-ior shall my heart re-joice.
His ho-ly name, the Lord, the Might-y One.
The hun-gry fed, the hum-ble lift-ed high.
To chil-dren's chil-dren and for-ev-er-more!

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Prayer

Kyrie

- C** Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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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

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

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

P 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.**

Benedicamus

LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 234

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.**

433 Glory Be to Jesus



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don 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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Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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