

As We Gather

This Lent, we have been using 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.

As we conclude these forty days of Lent, looking within ourselves as people of faith in our day, we again ask how we are like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh. Most important, as we gather for worship, we see again what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death.

It is difficult for us to look through the eyes of the disciples when they were celebrating Passover, but it was within that context that Jesus pronounced the bread and wine to be His body and blood. Today, it is within the liturgy of the Lord's Supper that our Lord's words call us to recognize more than meets our physical eyes. What do we perceive?

620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 203

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

- P** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
C **I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.**
P Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
C **The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.**
P Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”
P Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

Kyrie

LSB 204

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.
O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1–14

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 12.

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

P The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 11.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 14:22–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²And as they were eating, [Jesus] took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \dagger everlasting. Amen.

446 Jesus, Greatest at the Table



1 Je - sus, great - est at the ta - ble, The al -
 2 Mar - vel how their Lord and teach - er Gent - ly
 3 Je - sus took the role of ser - vant When up -
 4 Can we fath - om such deep mer - cy? Do we
 5 Je - sus gave to His dis - ci - ples A com -



might - y Son of Man, Laid a - side His out - er cloth - ing,
 taught them not to vie As He hum - bly knelt be - fore them,
 on that grue - some span, For all hu - man sin He suf - fered
 see what God has done? Who can grasp this great re - ver - sal:
 mand - ment that was new: "Show My love to one an - oth - er,



Poured some wa - ter in a pan; As the Twelve lay,
 Dust - y feet to wash and dry, By His ten - der
 As a vile and loath - some man; On the cross poured
 Love that gives His on - ly Son? Christ, the sin - less
 Do as I have done for you; All the world will



hushed in si - lence, He the ser - vant's task be - gan.
 touch ex - press - ing True com - pas - sion from on high.
 out like wa - ter To ful - fill the Fa - ther's plan.
 for the sin - ners, For the man - y dies the One.
 know you love Me As you love each oth - er too."

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Sermon

More Than Meets the Eye

Prayer of the Church

P On this holy night in which our Lord gathered His disciples in the Upper Room, we come to You, O Lord, in His name with the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and all people.

Brief silence

- P** Grant to us zeal for Your house, O Lord, and love for the things of Your Kingdom. Preserve those who are unable to gather together as they wish, and grant them their desire quickly. Give Your Church harmony and peace to confess Your Word with one voice before the world. Cover us with the blood of Christ, and grant us Your Spirit, that we may walk in Your ways and do the good You desire. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, give to us faithful pastors who will preach Your Word in season and out, and give us ears and hearts willing to hear and heed Your voice. Raise up godly men to serve us as pastors, and raise up godly men and women to serve as teachers and in other offices for Your service. Bless those preparing for full-time church work in our colleges and seminaries as well as those considering church-work careers. Do not let the world's fears turn them from a faithful and devoted ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Deliver us, O Lord, from every temptation, and lead us to know and do what is holy and right according to Your Word and commands. Bless those preparing for Baptism and those being catechized into the faith, that they would be steadfast in faith in Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** In the midst of plagues and enemies that threaten and a world filled with conflict and terror, give us wise leaders, O Lord, that we may be preserved from harm. Guide those who make and administer our laws to act in timely and prudent ways, and give to all judges knowledge to render justice with mercy. Bless all military, emergency and medical workers who defend and help us here and abroad. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** As generously as You have given to us, O Lord, teach us to be generous in giving, that the poor may not suffer want nor Your Church be deprived of the resources to serve Your purpose both here and across the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Have mercy, Lord, spare Your people and turn this pandemic away! Preserve the sick, comfort the fearful and grant to the dying Your peace. Hear us on behalf of all those who have asked us to pray. Give us healing in accordance with Your will, strength to bear up under the burdens of this mortal life, and comfort and hope in this and every trial. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give us Your Word and Spirit, O Lord, that we may discern Your Son's presence in this bread and cup and leave the table with the good conscience of sins forgiven. Keep us in repentance, that we may not be overcome by sin, but pursue goodness and righteousness all our days. Protect and cleanse the lips of those who eat and drink, and remove their fears, for this testament is the promise to strengthen us in body and soul to life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, Your Son instituted this most blessed Sacrament to eat and to drink, that what is promised in His testament may be truly received by His friends and heirs. Have mercy on all who are kept from Your table in extraordinary circumstances, and do not shut them out of Your Supper forever. Let the words of this testament echo in their ears and hearts and, in true faith, let them believe these words, trusting that they receive spiritually in faith exactly what Your Son has both won and declared: the forgiveness of sins. Stir up in us a desire to commune with our fellow Christians on Your true body and blood, and bring us soon to the table. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** You know, O Lord, what we need, and You have promised never to abandon us. Help us to endure in faith and, with a joyful countenance, receive the blessings of Your grace and the answers to our prayers; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

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.

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

Service of Darkness

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weigh-ed down,
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer-ed Was all for sin - ners' gain;
4 My Shep - herd, now re - ceive me; My Guard-ian, own me Thine.



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
How doth Thy face now lan-guish That once was bright as morn!
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;



Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.

5 What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.

6 My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!

7 Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.

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