

Eyes on Jesus: Murderous Eyes

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?

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***

Confession

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father,

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Forgiveness

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. **Amen.**

Psalmody

Psalm 10:1–12; antiphon: v.12

L *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?**

L In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;

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

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

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

L 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.

L 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.**

L He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved;

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

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

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

L He sits in ambush in the villages;

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

L His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

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

L he lurks that he may seize the poor;

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

L The helpless are crushed, sink down,
C **and fall by his might.**

L 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.

First Reading

Job 24:13–17

L *Job notes how those who are evil seek to hide in darkness.*

A reading from the 24th chapter of Job.

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.**

Passion

Mark 14:1, 53–65

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him.

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶² “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. ⁶⁴ “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

Sermon

Rev. Kevin Barron

Offering

Canticle

P We will use hymn 420 as the canticle for each of our midweek Lenten services. Today’s second stanza thanks our Lord for taking the false accusations and gaining our freedom and security.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church around the world, ourselves, and all people in their various needs.

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. *Psalm 145:15*

For farmers and ranchers and those who bring food to market, that God would provide favorable weather, bountiful harvests, and relief from both drought and flood, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Look on them all in Your mercy, heavenly Father.**

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. *Psalm 25:15*

For all who struggle with unemployment or underemployment, with poor living conditions or displacement from home, with personal demons or ill health, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Behold their turmoil, Lord Jesus, and grant them relief and hope.**

P His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. *Psalm 97:4*

For all people in authority over communities and countries, all whose decisions affect the climate of the planet and the health of its inhabitants, and all who are charged to maintain justice within their borders and peace among nations, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Gaze upon Your servants, O Lord; protect and guide them that they may serve with wisdom, compassion, and courage.**

P I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD. *Psalm 121:1–2a*

For all who serve the Lord as they care for others—medical personnel and first responders, counselors and advisers, friends and neighbors, professionals and volunteers—let us pray to the Lord.

C **Observe how they use the gifts You have given them, O Holy Spirit, and open doors of opportunity for them so that many may rejoice together.**

P Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings. *Psalm 17:8*

For the Church around the world, as clergy and lay leaders seek to proclaim the Gospel and faithfully endeavor to share their faith, especially in the face of persecution, let us pray to the Lord.

C See their struggle, O Holy Spirit, and give them strength to persevere and grow.

P Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! *Psalm 34:8*

For the Church, wherever it gathers around Word and Sacrament, relying on God's steadfast love and faithfulness, and looking forward to the fulfillment of all His gracious promises, let us pray to the Lord.

C Watch over Your Church, Lord Jesus; protect and defend us until that day we see You face to face.

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Prayer from Sunday

P Let us pray. 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.

C Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience;

P through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.**

Nunc Dimittis

P Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Benediction

P The blessing of almighty God—the Father, who saw mankind's hopeless condition, the T Son, who showed the depth of God's love, and the Holy Spirit, who has opened our eyes of faith in Christ—be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.