



HOLY THURSDAY

**IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA**

APRIL 9, 2020

EYES ON JESUS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

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.

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?

Opening Hymn "Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face"

Tune: *LSB437*

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Our eyes behold the Savior's face
And yet cannot perceive
That His perspective held our grace
Before we could believe. | 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. |
| 2 | Our focus flits and fails to see
The One whose steadfast gaze
Propelled Him to the darkened tree
Enveloped in death's haze. | 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. |

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Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Passion Reading

P Jesus reveals that the disciples are receiving more than bread and wine at the Passover on the night in which He was betrayed.

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the 14th chapter.

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." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, 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 Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon *More Than Meets the Eye*

P The Lord's Supper is a mystery, for the reality of it cannot be seen with human eyes. As in stanza 4 of the hymn we are about to sing, "Faith alone the true heart waketh To behold the mystery". We sing hymn 630.

Hymn "Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling"

LSB 630



1 Now, my tongue, the mys - t'ry tell - ing Of the glo - rious
2 Giv'n for us, and con - de - scend - ing To be born for
3 That last night at sup - per ly - ing Mid the Twelve, His
4 Word made flesh, the bread He tak - eth, By His word His
△ 5 Glo - ry let us give and bless - ing To the Fa - ther



bod - y sing, And the blood, all price ex - cel - ling,
us be - low, He with us in con - verse blend - ing
cho - sen band, Je - sus, with the Law com - ply - ing,
flesh to be; Wine His sa - cred blood He mak - eth,
and the Son, Hon - or, thanks, and praise ad - dress - ing,



Which the Gen - tiles' Lord and King, Once on earth a -
Dwelt, the seed of truth to sow, Till He closed with
Keeps the feast its rites de - mand; Then, more pre - cious
Though the sens - es fail to see; Faith a - lone the
While e - ter - nal a - ges run; Ev - er too His



mong us dwell - ing, Shed for this world's ran - som - ing.
won - drous end - ing His most pa - tient life of woe.
food sup - ply - ing, Gives Him - self with His own hand.
true heart wak - eth To be - hold the mys - ter - y.
love con - fess - ing Who from both with both is One.

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Address

P On Ash Wednesday, there were physical signs of our penitence, visible in the mirror and to everyone we met. The ashes were placed on each of our individual forehead. In the Lord's Supper, we received our Lord's body and blood, somehow in, with, and under the bread and wine—certainly more than our physical eyes can perceive. But we cannot commune with our Lord so intimately, sinners that we are; penitence is not enough. We need God's forgiveness, assured thereby that God's Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, has staved off the death sentence our sins deserve as surely as the Seder lamb's blood told the angel of death to pass over the Israelite homes so long ago.

Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Confession

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, by nature sinful and unclean, confess to You that I have failed to see You present in my daily living. In addition to my faults that are visible to the people around me, You know my secret thoughts, my whispered words, and my furtive actions. For these and other sins I have hidden even from myself I am heartily sorry. I repent of them and pray that You will show me mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ☩ peace. *1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

C Amen.

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

+ WORD +

Kyrie

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation, visible in the Lord's Supper, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For peace the whole world may see, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all who see in Christ their Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house and for all who show here their faith in worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Salutation

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 12:1-14*

- A** When the Israelites were captive in Egypt, God instructed them to put lamb's blood on their doorposts as a visible sign for the angel of death to pass over them. So that they would always remember that night, they were to observe the Passover Seder, a meal prepared and eaten as God directed them.

The Old Testament Reading for Holy Thursday is from the 12th chapter of Exodus.

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. ³Tell 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. ⁴And 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and 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. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³The 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.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

- A** [Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,
C **thus securing an eternal redemption.**
- A** Therefore, He is the mediator of a new covenant,
C **so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**

- A** He sent redemption to His people;
- C** **He has commanded His covenant forever.**

Epistle *1 Corinthians 11:23-32*

- A** Paul reminds us that in the Sacrament we are visibly proclaiming what onlookers miss: the Lord's death, His body and blood, until He returns.
The Epistle is from the 11th chapter of First Corinthians.

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.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Verse *John 13:1b*

- P** Having loved His own who were in the world.
He loved them to the end.

Holy Gospel *John 13:1-15, 34-35*

- P** As He washes their feet, Jesus opens the disciples' eyes to what true servanthood means.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

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

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them

with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. . . .

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn “Jesus, Greatest at the Table”

LSB 446



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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Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- A** 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.
- 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.
- A** 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.
- A** 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.
- A** 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.

A 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.

A 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.

A 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.

A 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

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

P This is the night in which our Lord was betrayed. Knowing that it was for our salvation, He willingly let the forces of evil strip Him of freedom, friends, dignity, and life itself.

All the appointments in the chancel remind us of our Lord, the light of the world, the Word of God appearing in the flesh, the covering for our sins, and so on. This evening, they are stripped away, leaving only the altar—the symbol for Christ Himself.

As the various items are removed, we speak together the words of Psalm 22, which anticipated our Lord's Passion and which He seems to have prayed while on the cross. And then we depart until our worship continues tomorrow.

Psalm 22

- ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.
- ³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴ In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- ⁵ To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- ⁷ All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- ⁸ "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"
- ⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
- ¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
- ¹¹ Be not far from me,
for trouble is near, and there is none to help.
- ¹² Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- ¹³ they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—

¹⁷ I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸ they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²² I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD,

and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰ Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

Please observe a time of silence.

Those Who Serve

Officiant: Rev. Martin T. Schnare
Preacher: Rev. Richard C. Mueller
Accompanist: Mrs. Cheryl McDuffie
Videographer: Mr. Ryan Taylor

Acknowledgments

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