

GRACE EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN CHURCH

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE – APRIL 1, 2020



WORLDLY EYES

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.

Tonight, we learn of Pilate's worldly view—how he handed Jesus over for crucifixion in order to keep his position and to placate the Jewish leaders and crowd. The soldiers saw the opposite of a worldly king, but what they intended as irony, hailing Him as "King of the Jews", actually proclaims the truth of who He is.

The world looks for power and glory; God's way is suffering and the cross. What are we looking for in the decision we make in our lives? Which way does God show us to go? Where should we keep our eyes?

✠ VESPERS ✠

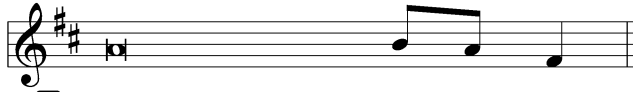
Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

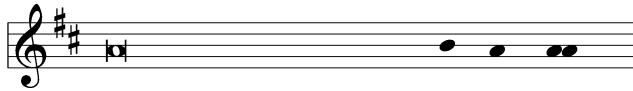
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

PSALMODY

PSALM

Psalm 2

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The doxology/Gloria Patri is omitted during Passiontide.

¹Why do the | nations rage*

and the peoples | plot in vain?

²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*

against the LORD and against His anointed, | saying,

³“Let us burst Their | bonds apart*

and cast away Their | cords from us.”

⁴He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*

the Lord holds them in de- | rision.

⁵The He will speak to them | in His wrath,*

and terrify them in His fury, | saying,

⁶“As for Me, I have | set My King*

on Zion, My | holy hill.”

⁷I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have be- | gotten You.

⁸Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your | heritage,*

and the ends of the earth Your pos- | session.

⁹You shall break them with a | rod of iron*

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”

¹⁰Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*

be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

¹¹Serve the | LORD with fear,*

and rejoice with | trembling.

¹²Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly | kindled.*

Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in Him.

OFFICE HYMN: What Is the World to Me

LSB 730



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!

Tune and text: Public Domain

READINGS

After each reading:

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 13:9–11

- 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.
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.

SECOND READING

1 John 2:15–17

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.

THIRD READING

John 18:33–38a

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?” ³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷Then Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” ³⁸Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

PASSION READING

Mark 15:1–20

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.

RESPONSORY: Lent

Psalm 51:14; Psalm 59:1; Psalm 141:8



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

SERMON: Worldly Eyes

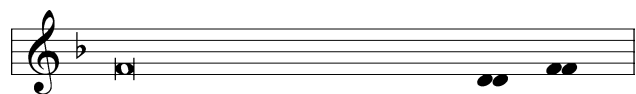
Rev. Griebenaw

CANTICLE

Stand

Psalms 141:2

ANTIPHON



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

MAGNIFICAT: The Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



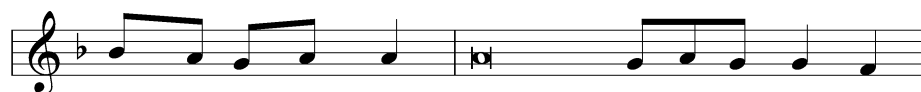
II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



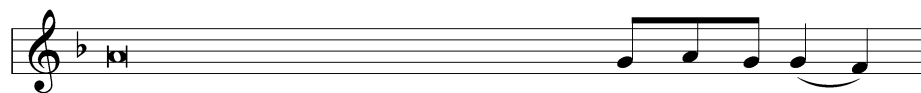
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.

II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.

The Gloria Patri is omitted during Passiontide.

PRAYER

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

III Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,
Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as
it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly
bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give
those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -
to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -
ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

COLLECTS



P The Lord be with you.



G And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

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.



G A - men.

Collect for Lent

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Collect of the Passion

P O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

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.



G A - men.

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)