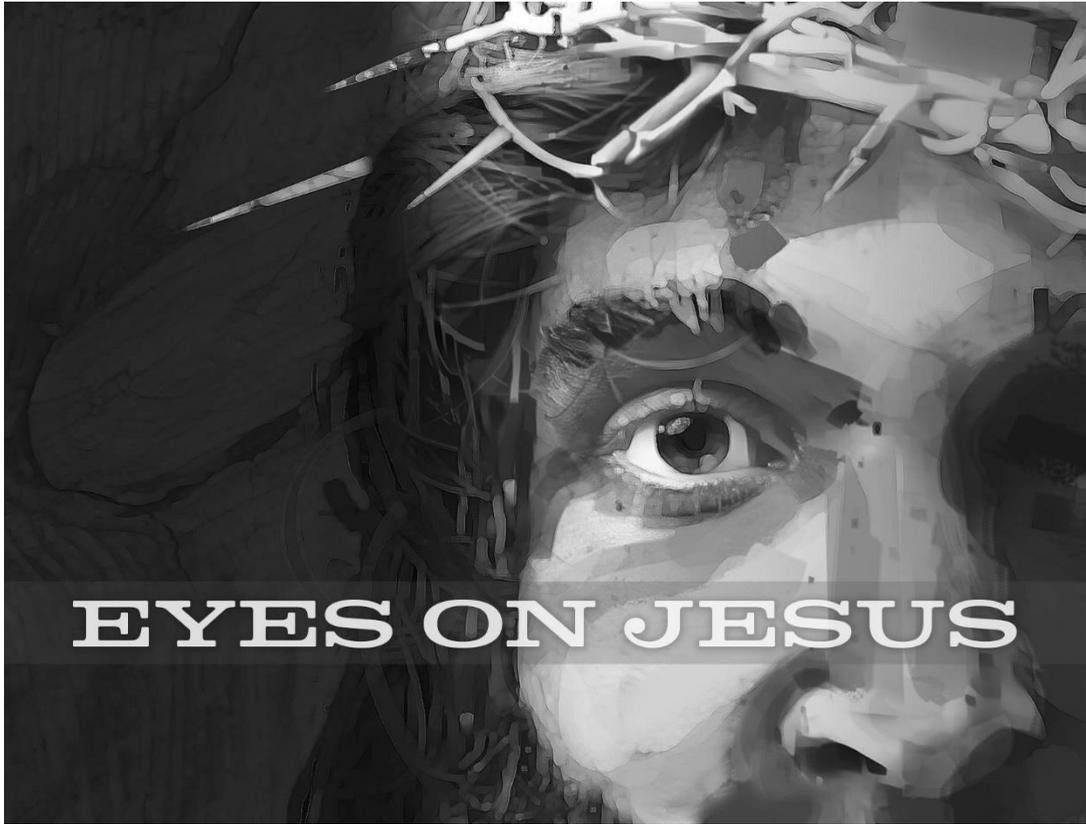


# MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP



Shepherd of the Valley  
Lutheran Church & School

Westminster, Colorado  
Spring, 2020

ALL PRAY OR SING TOGETHER:

- 1) In the cross of Christ I glory, towering over the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2) When the woes of life overtake me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3) When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4) Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

## **MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS**

**Leader:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you.

**All:** Amen.

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

**All:** Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

## **ABSOLUTION**

**Leader:** If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *1 Jn 1:9*

**All:** Thanks be to God. Amen.

## PRAYER

**Leader:** Lord, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world.

**All:** Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD: Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

### BIBLE STUDY ON MARK 14:26-31, 66-72

*“DENYING EYES”*

#### INTRODUCTION

*“Tell me, as you hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his? Friends through fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress”* (CW 127:2). When Jesus predicted that all of his disciples would be scattered when the Good Shepherd was struck down, they vehemently denied that they would forsake him. But as always, the Lord’s Word comes to pass. Peter goes so far as to deny that he even knows Jesus. But Jesus will not deny the will of his Father, and he steadfastly takes up his cross and lays down his life for sinful deniers like Peter and us.

#### QUESTIONS *(Answers on the next page)*

1. Read **Zechariah 13:7-9**. If the apostles had recalled this whole passage, why would they not have protested so much about what was to come?
2. Jesus specifically promised, *“After I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee”* (**Mark 14:28**), so the disciples should not have despaired. But Jesus knew they were going to fall away. Peter “doubles down,” as it were, by insisting that even if all should fall away, he never would. Read **Mark 8:27-33**. Compare and contrast Peter’s behavior in this earlier scene with his actions in the high priest’s courtyard when he is confronted by a socially insignificant servant girl.

3. After Jesus had rebuked Peter, he went on to instruct his disciples (including us) on the costs and benefits of following him. Whom does Jesus call on his disciples to deny in **Mark 8:34–38**? What is at stake for them (*and all of us*) in this calling from him?
4. Thanks be to God, this was not the end of the story for Peter and the other apostles. Jesus went to Calvary to die for their denial and falling away, and on Easter Sunday, he rose from the dead, never to die again! In **John 20:19–23**, what does Jesus do in order to restore his fallen disciples? What message does he deliver to us in order to comfort us when we have denied Jesus or fallen away from him?
5. Peter had denied Jesus publicly, while the others had fled in fear. Jesus later has a special appearance to Peter in order to assure him that he has been restored to the office of shepherding Christ's sheep, in spite of his previous denials. What is so fitting about Jesus' restoration of Peter in **John 21:15–19**? How do the final words of Jesus to Peter echo his earlier saying about self-denial and cross bearing?
6. Peter would go on to boldly proclaim Jesus Christ crucified and risen, the only name under heaven by which we can be saved (**Acts 4:12**). He and the other apostles also would write to Christian congregations to warn about threats to the one true faith. According to **2 Peter 2:1–2**, for what must the Christian Church constantly be on the lookout? What is the greatest of lies? What are the consequences of following it? See **1 John 2:22–23**.
7. Jesus said, *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."* (**Luke 16:13**). The love of money is something that can lead disciples of Jesus to deny him. How does **Proverbs 30:7–9** address the temptation to make money into an idol that would lead us to deny Jesus?

## CONCLUSION

The prospect of denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following Jesus is a daunting one. The essence of sin is self-centeredness. The cross is heavy to bear and pains our sinful flesh. And following Jesus promises a life of scorn from the world and even persecution. But Jesus promises that **“the one who stands firm to the end will be saved”** (Mark 13:13), and that the Lord will give us the strength to endure every temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13) and will be the one responsible for carrying us through to the end: **“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24)

## PRAYER

**Leader:** God our Father, by your mercy and might, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection, we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## LORD’S PRAYER

**All:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## BLESSING

**Leader:** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

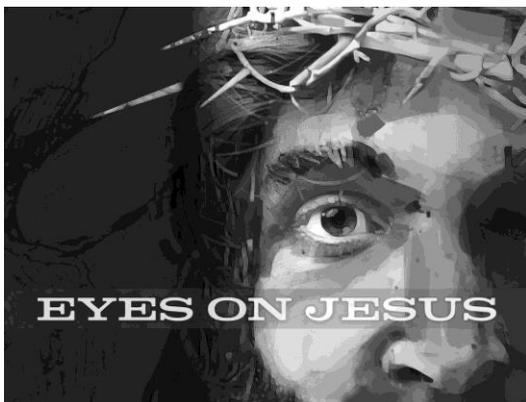
**All:** Amen.

## CLOSING PRAYER: HYMN 593

*Now the Light Has Gone Away*

### ALL PRAY OR SING TOGETHER:

- 1) Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking you to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.
- 2) Jesus, Savior, wash away All that I've done wrong today.  
Make me ever more like you, Good and gentle, kind and true.
- 3) Let my near and dear ones be Safe with you eternally.  
Oh, bring me and all I love To your happy home above.
- 4) Now my evening praise I give; You once died that I might live.  
All your precious gifts are free—Oh, how good you are to me!
- 5) Ah, my best and kindest Friend, You will love me to the end.  
Let me love you more and more, Always better than before.



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