



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

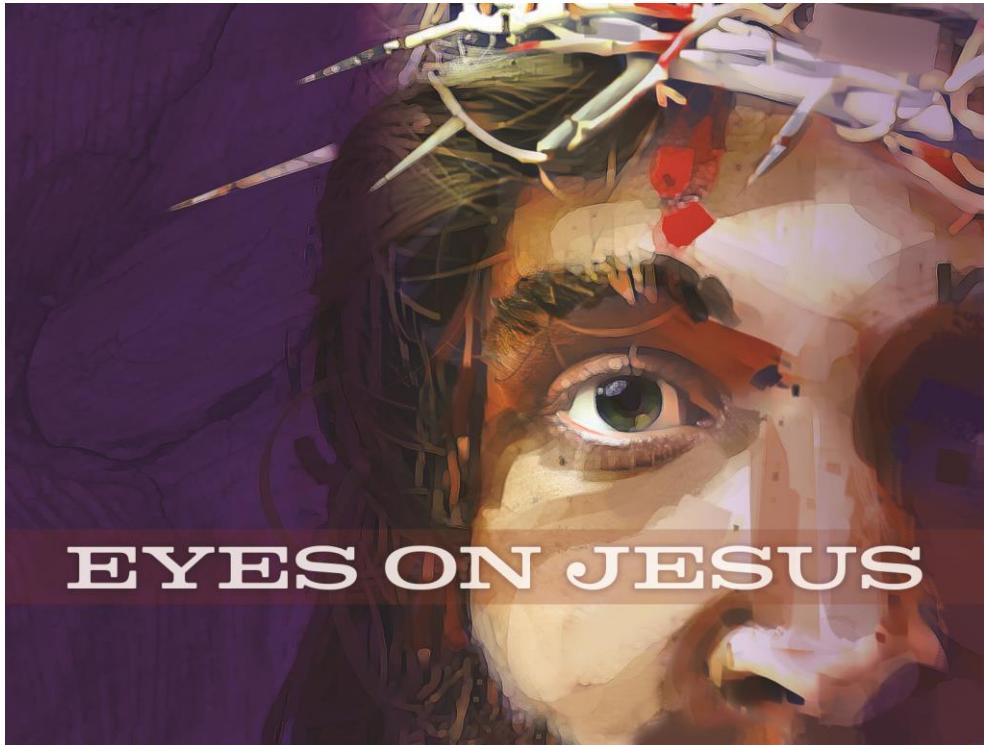
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

475 North Ave. W. Brooksville, FL 34601

“THE CHURCH THAT IS A FAMILY”

The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church:

Reach, Teach, & Preach



EYES ON JESUS

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Eyes on Jesus: More Than Meets the Eye

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?

Hymn

Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face

1 Our eyes behold the Savior's face
And yet cannot perceive
That His perspective held our grace
Before we could believe.

2 Our focus flits and fails to see
The One whose steadfast gaze
Propelled Him to the darkened tree
Enveloped in death's haze.

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.

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.

Invocation

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

Passion Reading

P Today, our worship begins with the Passion reading and the sermon so that the liturgy may then move uninterrupted from Confession and Absolution to the reception of the Lord's Supper—and then on to tomorrow and the cross.

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 630 (tune Picardy LSB 621 – “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”)

NOW, MY TONGUE, THE MYSTERY TELLING

1.

Now, my tongue, the myst’ry telling
Of the glorious body sing,
And the blood, all price excelling,
Which the Gentiles’ Lord and King,
Once on earth among us
dwelling,
Shed for this world’s ransoming.

2.

Giv’n for us, and condescending
To be born for us below,
He with us in converse blending
Dwelt, the seed of truth to sow,
Till He closed with wondrous
ending
His most patient life of woe.

3.

That last night at supper lying
Mid the Twelve, His chosen band,
Jesus, with the Law complying,

Keeps the feast its rites demand;
Then, more precious food
supplying,
Gives Himself with His own hand.

4.

Word made flesh, the bread He
taketh,
By His word His flesh to be;
Wine His sacred blood He maketh,
Though the senses fail to see;
Faith alone the true heart waketh
To behold the mystery.

5.

Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honor, thanks, and praise
addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too His love confessing
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 foreheads. Soon, many of us will be receiving 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.

Absolution

P "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.

C And also with you.

+ WORD +

Hymn 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.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

P 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

P 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.

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

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament, You have left us a remembrance of Your Passion.

C 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;

P 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 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.

¹The 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

P [Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,

C **thus securing an eternal redemption.**

P Therefore, He is the mediator of a new covenant,

C so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

P He sent redemption to His people;

C He has commanded His covenant forever.

Epistle 1 Corinthians 11:23–32

P 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.

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

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

Verse John 13:1b

P Having loved His own who were in the world,

C 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.

P 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. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 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, rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him,

Lord, do You wash my feet?

Jesus answered him,

What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.

You shall never wash my feet.

If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me.

Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!

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.

For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, "Not all of you are clean."

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? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. . . .

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. 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.

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

sts. 1, 5-7

1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the
 6 The bod - y of God's Lamb we eat, A priest - ly
 7 With cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Our voic - es

ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
 rail on bend - ed knee Our hun - gry mouths from
 food and priest - ly meat; On sin - parched lips the
 join the end - less hymn, And "Ho - ly, ho - ly,

forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
 Him re - ceive The bread of im - mor - tal - i - ty.
 chal - ice pours His quench - ing blood that life re - stores.
 ho - ly" sing To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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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  everlasting. Amen.

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.**

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

¶ 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 Psalm 22:1-31

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.
³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
⁴In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
⁷All 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!"
⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
¹¹Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
¹²Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
¹⁶For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
¹⁷I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;

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

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

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

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

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

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For 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.

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

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

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

²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹All 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.

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

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

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