FIFTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE
April 1, 2020

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 learn of Pilate’s worldly view and how, to keep his position and placate the Jewish leaders and crowd, he handed Jesus over for crucifixion. The soldiers saw the opposite of a worldly king, but their ironic hailing of Him as “King of the Jews” proclaims who He really is. The world looks for power and glory; God’s way is suffering and the cross. Which way do we look in the daily decisions we make?

Opening Hymn
“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

1 Just as I am, without one plea
   But that Thy blood was shed for me
   And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not
   To rid my soul of one dark blot,
   To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
   With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
   Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
   Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
   Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Public domain

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

Opening Sentences
P The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15-16) Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings. (Psalm 17:8) For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself; and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! (Job 19:25-27)

First Reading: Isaiah 13:9-11 Isaiah foretells punishment for the world’s wickedness.
Behold, 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.
10 For 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.
11 I 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us. C Thanks be to God.
Second Reading: 1 John 2:15-17 Choosing between the things of this world and the Will of God.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in
him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

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

The Passion Mark 15:1-20

This Lent, we are looking at the events of our Lord’s Passion through the eyes of some of the people who witnessed it. Today, we find ourselves speaking the words of the chief priests and the soldiers, the groups who called for Jesus’ execution and ironically called Him “King.”

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

And 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. And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” And Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And 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.

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

Sermon “Worldly Eyes,” by Rev. Douglas Bender

Announcements and Offering

Collect of the Day

P Lord Jesus Christ, the devil, the world, and our sinful nature constantly lead us to worldliness. Forgive our worldly sins and grant us the gift of heavenly-mindedness so that we might live in the world while not being of the world.

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.

Collect

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.

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. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer
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.

Benediction
The blessing of almighty God—the Father, who saw humankind’s hopeless condition, the † 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.

Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision”
1 Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

2 Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

3 High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my Vision O Ruler of all

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Palm Sunday, April 5
Saturday: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 11am (Traditional)
Sunday: 9:30am (Contemporary)
Monday: 6:30pm (Traditional)

Maundy Thursday, April 9
4:30pm & 6:30pm

Good Friday (Tenebrae), April 10
1pm & 6:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 12
6am (Sunrise Service) 8am, 11am (Traditional)
9:30am (Contemporary)

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