

Sermon for Mid-week Lent #1

Date: March 4, 2020

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, Austin, MN

First Reading: Acts 7:48-53

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Passion Reading: Mark 14:10–21, 32, 41–46



Sermon Text: Mark 14:10–21, 32, 41–46

Sermon Title: Betraying Eyes

Hymns:

CW – Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face

LSB 544 – O Love, How Deep

LSB 42 – Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB 527 – O Savior, Precious Savior

Liturgy:

Divine Service: Creative Worship



Pastor James Groleau
St. John's Lutheran Church
1200 13th Avenue NW
Austin, MN 55912
Office: (507) 433-2642
Shepherd@JamesPlace.net
StJohnsAustinLCMS.org
FaceBook.com/StJohnsAustin
Twitter.com@StJohnsAustinMN
FaceBook.com/Shepherd.James.Groleau
KAUS 1480 AM Sun. 9:00am



Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face

sts. 1–5

Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face

Lisa M. Clark

MARTYRDOM
Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824



1 Our eyes be - hold the Sav - ior's face And
2 Our fo - cus flits and fails to see The
3 Our sights train on the dread - ful cross. Be -
4 Our vi - sion blurs with anx - ious tears As
5 Our view scans for the com - ing Day That



yet can - not per - ceive That His per - spec - tive
One whose stead - fast gaze Pro - pelled Him to the
neath His know - ing eyes, Our sins are bare and
Je - sus' eye - lids fall To con - quer sin and
ev - er - more grows near, When Je - sus wipes our



held our grace Be - fore we could be - lieve.
dark - ened tree En - vel - oped in death's haze.
set for loss; He sees us as His prize.
all our fears And tear in two our pall.
tears a - way And all is crys - tal clear.

Opening Sentences *Psalm 121:1–2; 145:15–16; 17:8; 25:15; Job 19:25–*

27

P I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?

C My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 121:1–2*

P The eyes of all look to You,
and You give them their food in due season.

C **You open Your hand;**
You satisfy the desire of every living thing. *Psalm*
145:15–16

P Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
C **hide me in the shadow of Your wings. *Psalm 17:8***

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
C **for He will pluck my feet out of the net. *Psalm 25:15***

P For I know that my Redeemer lives,
C **and at the last He will stand upon the earth.**

P And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
C **yet in my flesh I shall see God,**

P whom I shall see for myself,
C **and my eyes shall behold, and not another.**
My heart faints within me! *Job 19:25–27*

Confession

P As we perceive how the people around Jesus were
unable to truly see Him, let us confess our own failures
to respond to His grace and mercy.

A The disciples misjudged the good deed of the woman
who anointed Jesus,
C **and we have failed to see that He is pleased with the
loving service of His followers.**

A Judas betrayed Jesus out of fear and for financial gain,
C **and we have betrayed our weak faith in Him when making difficult decisions.**

A Jesus' closest disciples gave in to sleep rather than watching and praying,
C **and we have preferred physical comfort over spiritual turmoil.**

A Peter failed to keep his bold promise of faithfulness to save his skin,
C **and we have let Sunday's strength fade when Monday morning dawned.**

A Jesus fulfilled the promise of salvation, even as His opponents sought to be rid of Him,
C **and He went to the cross because of our sins as well.**

A Pilate wanted to keep his political position, the soldiers saw only a weak man on the cross,
C **and we have let ourselves be deceived by the world's definition of success.**

A Jesus' body and blood are not visible in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper,
C **and we have not always looked beyond what our eyes can see in the Sacrament.**

A His Father forsook Jesus on the cross as He took all the punishment we deserve,
C **and we have, at times, focused on our best efforts instead of fixing our eyes on Jesus.**

- A** Jesus' followers didn't understand before Easter that He was only resting temporarily,
C and we have not always looked beyond our physical health or longevity.

- A** The angel proclaimed Jesus' resurrection to the women,
C and we pray that You, heavenly Father, will forgive us all our sins for Jesus' sake. Help us fix our eyes on Jesus each day until we follow Him to our eternal home, where we shall see You face to face.

Forgiveness

- P** "From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides the Lord, who acts for those who wait for Him" (*Isaiah 64:4*). As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 41; antiphon: v. 4

- L** When a friend opposes him, David looks to the Lord for protection.

As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"

Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

- C** In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

L the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessed in the land;
C **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

L The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;
C **in his illness You restore him to full health.**

**As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against You!”**

L My enemies say of me in malice,
C **“When will he die, and his name perish?”**

L And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,
C **while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out,
he tells it abroad.**

L All who hate me whisper together about me;
C **they imagine the worst for me.**

L They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him;
C **he will not rise again from where he lies.”**

L Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
C **who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.**

L But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,
C **and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

L By this I know that You delight in me:
C **my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.**

L But You have upheld me because of my integrity,
C and set me in Your presence forever.

L Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
C from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against You!”

First Reading: Acts 7:48–53

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First Reading: Acts 7:48–53

L Stephen recalls how the people rejected the prophets and have now betrayed and murdered Jesus, whom the prophets announced beforehand.

A reading from the 7th chapter of Acts.

The Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,

“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,

or what is the place of my rest?

Did not my hand make all these things?”

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit.

As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? They killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the Law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:1–5

L Paul warns Timothy that in times to come he should avoid people who will follow their own sinful desires.

A reading from the 3rd chapter of Paul's second letter to Timothy.

Understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.

Avoid such people.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

Mark 14:21b; 1 Peter 1:3b, 8, adapted

L The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.
Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him
and rejoice with joy.**

L God has caused us to be born again to a living hope.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.
Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him
and rejoice with joy.**

L The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him.

C **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him.**

Though we do not now see Him, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy.

Passion Reading: Mark 14:10–21, 32, 41–46

P This Lent, we are looking at the events of our Lord's Passion through the eyes of some of the people who witnessed it. In order to do that today we shall all read the words of Judas.

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

Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray Him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him,

C **Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?**

P And he sent two of his disciples and said to them,

A Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, "The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.

P And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said,

A Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

P They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another,

C Is it I?

A It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born. . . .

P And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples,

A Sit here while I pray. . . .

P And he came the third time and said to them,

A Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.

P And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

C **The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.**

P And when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

C **Rabbi!**

P And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized Him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Only two hymns even mention Judas's betrayal. Stanza 5 in the following hymn is one of them, naming wickedness as the source of the betrayal.

544 O Love, How Deep

sts. 1-2, 5

544

O Love, How Deep



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
 3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
 5 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed,



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
 Of high - er or of low - er place,
 His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
 For us His dai - ly works He wrought,
 For us, in crown of thorns ar - rayed,



That God, the Son of God, should take
 But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
 For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
 By words and signs and ac - tions thus
 He bore the shame - ful cross and death;



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 And to this world Him - self He came.
 For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 Still seek - ing not Him - self but us,
 For us He gave His dy - ing breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;
 For us He went on high to reign;
 For us He sent His Spirit here
 To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

△ 7 All glory to our Lord and God
 For love so deep, so high, so broad;
 The Trinity whom we adore
 Forever and forevermore.

Sermon: Betraying Eyes

Grace to you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Judas will forever be a name associated with betrayal and treachery.

He will be forever remembered as the one who handed over the innocent Jesus, to sinful men who would see to His death.

Tonight we will begin by looking at,
and through,
the betraying eyes of Judas.

In doing this, I want to lead you to recognize that it is of utmost importance for us to take a hard look at ourselves, and then fix our eyes on Jesus.

The Bible records:

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them.

In mentioning that Judas was "one of the twelve" it points out the deeply personal nature of his treachery, and the true utter and despicable nature of his betrayal.

Judas had been chosen out of countless others, to be one of the inner sanctum. A select, elite, group who had the privilege of being the closest to Jesus, the Son of God, for three years.

Judas knew first-hand the love and mercy of Jesus, and had witnessed His powerful miracles with his own eyes.

He had heard the Beatitudes spoken from the mouth of the Author of Life;

he had heard the parable of the rich fool, and warnings about greed, drummed into his ears;

he had gone out and preached in Jesus' name;

he had heard the warnings about those who preached in the Lord's name, but are shocked on Judgment Day to find out that their faithlessness has landed them in Hell.

...

Judas went to the chief priests with an offer to hand Jesus over to them. The Bible states:

When they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money.

The Temple Authority was seeking an inconspicuous location to arrest Jesus, and Judas would provide them with an ideal opportunity.

He would take them to Jesus, in the middle of the night, in an isolated garden.

We hear from the Gospels, Judas was a greedy man, even a thief. So he must have looked at this betrayal as an opportunity to line his pockets.

Judas's plan was in place, but first he had to wait through the preparation of the Passover meal, and the Seder.

At dinner, Jesus drops the bomb. The Bible says:

As they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me, one who is eating with Me."

Try to picture what everyone's eyes were doing at that table. Jesus would be calmly looking around, knowing by His Divine nature, exactly who it is, but not giving anything away.

The Bible records:

They began to be sorrowful and to say to [*Jesus*] one after another, 'Is it I?'"

You can picture them looking around the room with suspicion, wondering, 'Who must it be?'

Then you have to wonder, what were Judas' eyes doing? >>>>>>

- Did he look down in shame?
- Did he nervously glance around to see if he was suspected?
- Did he put on a good show, and act like the rest of them?

In some sense we are all traitors and saboteurs.

God our loving heavenly Father gave us love and perfection, and we followed the father of filth and lies.

Traitors.

That's why it is such good news when Jesus says in that Upper Room:

“The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him.”

Then in the garden,

“The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

Jesus came specifically for this purpose, to be betrayed, and to pour out His holy, precious blood, and suffer an innocent death, to pay for

your sins,

for Judas' sins,

for the sins of the whole world.

He said:

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

...

There are deep mysteries here.

Judas was responsible for his betrayal of Jesus, and justly paid the price for his sin, and lack of repentance, – even though the Scriptures had foretold this would happen.

God did not force Judas to do anything, but it was Judas’ sinful will, along with the Satan’s seduction, that led him to this.

Yet behind the scenes, this was the plan all along.

The Father’s will was to punish His Son for our sake.

The Father’s will was to hand over His Son to this death

The Son went willingly, out of love for you and all sinners.

You traitors, you Judases, in Holy Baptism have been washed in the blood of the Lamb of God, the same One you betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Don't try to hide your crimes!

Don't pretend you don't sin.

Carry them out into the light and confess them.

God will not be surprised at what you have to tell Him. He already knows.

He knew as He went to the cross to establish His kingdom of grace.

He knows even now as He forgives the sins of all who repent.

- Every time you have betrayed Him,
- every time you have made promises to Him that you did not keep,
- for all of the commitments to your Lord you have failed to uphold,

remember this: There is forgiveness for you in repentance.

There is forgiveness for you:

- as it is spoken each worship service in the words of Absolution,
- as the grace of Holy Baptism comes to your remembrance,
- as the forgiving, life-giving body and blood of Jesus is given into your mouth.

Remember that, the next time we come to the Lord's Table.

It is really there.

His real body,

His real blood, and

your real sin are really there.

When those come together there are only two outcomes.

1. As Jesus body and blood pass your lips, your sins, in repentance, are carried to the cross.

Or

2. In un-repentance your sins mark you as an enemy of God, a traitor, a Judas, and they carry you to Hell.

Come to that Holy Table in humility.

Each Sunday as you see the Sacred Supper prepared, and hear,

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night in which He was betrayed, ...”

Move past the mundane,

manage humility, and

magnify our Mighty Lord.

Those “One Word Sin” cards are still in the pews for a short time longer.

Use them!

Write your sin down.

Let your eyes see it.

Ponder it.

Think on it.

Then fold it up, put it on the cross, and think on it no more. The cross is where it belongs.

Then you can sing with joy,

“Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace...

My own eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the sight of all people.”

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Offering

Canticle

P We will use hymn 420 as the canticle for each of our midweek Lenten services. Today the second verse laments the pain and scorn heaped upon our Lord, when His spiritually blind disciple betrayed Him to the mob, that did not recognize Him.

1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff' rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Public domain

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church around the world, ourselves, and all people in their various needs.

A His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. *Psalm 97:4*

P 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.**

A I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord. *Psalm 121:1-2a*

P 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.**

A Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings. *Psalm 17:8*

P 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.**

A Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! *Psalm 34:8*

P 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.

Prayer for Peace

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

C **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;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

Nunc Dimittis

P Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people, a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

C Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Benediction

P The blessing of almighty God—the Father, who saw mankind’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.

P Our physical eyes cannot see our Lord, but He has revealed Himself to our eyes of faith.

We sing about the revelation of His love in **hymn 527**.

>>>>>>>

527 O Savior, Precious Savior

527

O Savior, Precious Savior



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, Whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, Who won - drous - ly hast wrought;
3 In Thee all full - ness dwell - eth, All grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 O grant the con - sum - ma - tion Of this our song a - bove



O name of might and fa - vor, All oth - er names a - bove,
Thy - self the rev - e - la - tion Of love be - yond our thought,
The glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is Thine,
In end - less ad - o - ra - tion And ev - er - last - ing love;



We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where per - fect prais - es ring,



We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our ho - ly Lord and King.
We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our gra - cious Lord and King.
We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our glo - rious Lord and King.
And ev - er - more con - fess Thee, Our Sav - ior and our King!



Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending

P Let us go forth in peace.

C In the name of the Lord.

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