



EYES ON JESUS

## Ash Wednesday Service

# Eyes on Jesus

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 consider the disciples. They failed to see that Jesus had to leave them so He could die and rise for them and for us. And they misjudged the selfless, loving act of the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive ointment. He saw it as a beautiful, selfless act of devotion that prepared Him for burial. We need to examine ourselves, lest we seek public approval or divine reward for our good deeds. Only what our Lord has done for us makes us pleasing to the Father.

## ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

**P** Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

## LITANY

**P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Christ,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Christ,  
**C** **hear us.**

**P** God the Father in heaven,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** God the Holy Spirit,  
**C** **have mercy.**

- P** Be gracious to us.
- C** **Spare us, good Lord.**
- P** Be gracious to us.
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** We poor sinners implore You
- C** **to hear us, O Lord.**
- P** To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**C** **we implore You to hear us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**C** **have mercy.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**C** **have mercy.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**C** **grant us Your peace.**
- P** O Christ,  
**C** **hear us.**
- P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,  
**C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy. Amen.**
- P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

+ THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES +

*The congregation may come forward to receive ashes in the sign of the cross.*

- P** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence and may be seated.*

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

Hymn – *Savior When in Dust to Thee*

#419

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly**

**deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

#### KYRIE

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C** Amen.

#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**C** Amen.

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING -- *Joel 2:12-13*

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to Me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”  
Return to the LORD, your God,  
for He is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and He relents over disaster.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



## **EPISTLE -- 2 Peter 1:2–11**


May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

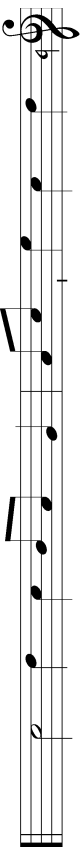
**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE FOR LENT



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the  
fourteenth chapter.  
**G** **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than

three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### 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.

Hymn of the Day – *From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee* #607

SERMON

Offertory

What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, in contrition, we today enter the holy season of Lent to meditate on the sufferings and death that You endured to save us. Help us never to misjudge the value of Your sacrifice for us but always to hold it as our dearest treasure and fix our eyes upon You, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** **hear our prayer.**

**P** May Your willingness to deny Yourself, take up the cross, and suffer for us inspire in us a hatred of sin and a zeal to follow Your example for the sake of our neighbor. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Grant us to escape from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. Give us strength to supplement our faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. Prevent us from being ineffective or unfruitful in our vocations. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** **hear our prayer.**

**P** You know everything we need before we ask. Plead to the Father on our behalf so that, even though our own prayers are insufficient, we may nonetheless

receive everything we need for the sake of Your merits; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for

the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## DISTRIBUTION

## PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Your body and blood we have received a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal Kingdom. May this heavenly food sustain us on our journey through this world of sin and woe so that, even if our bodies are reduced to dust and ashes, we may enjoy the gifts of resurrection and eternal life with you; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.

## BENEDICAMUS

**P** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be  
gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠  
give you peace.
- C** Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN -- *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* #418

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