

Eyes on Jesus: Murderous Eyes

Hymn of Invocation

437 *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y
His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.
thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

Text and tune: Public domain

- L O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- C **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.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

+ Psalmody +

Psalm

Psalm 10:1–12; antiphon: v. 12

- L Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;
forget not the afflicted.
- C **Why, O LORD, do You stand afar off?
Why do You hide yourself in times of trouble?**
- L In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;
let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.
- C **For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,**

and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.

In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him;

all his thoughts are, "There is no God."

- L His ways prosper at all times;
Your judgments are on high, out of his sight;
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.
- C **He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;**
throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."
- L His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.
- C **He sits in ambush in the villages;**
in hiding places he murders the innocent.
His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;
- L he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;
he lurks that he may seize the poor;
he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.
- C **The helpless are crushed,**
sink down, and fall by his might.
- L He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,
He has hidden His face, He will never see it."
- C **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.
- L Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;
forget not the afflicted.

Office Hymn

453 Upon the Cross Extended



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
2 Come, see these things and pon - der, Your soul will
3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so
4 I caused Your grief and sigh - ing By e - vils



Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
fill with won - der As blood streams from each pore.
sore a - bused You And caused You all Your woe?
mul - ti - ply - ing As count - less as the sands.



The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
Through grief be - yond all know - ing From His great heart came
We all must make con - fes - sion Of sin and dire trans -
I caused the woes un - num - bered With which Your soul is



giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
flow - ing Sighs well - ing from its deep - est core.
gres - sion While You no ways of e - vil know.
cum - bered, Your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.

- 5 Your soul in griefs unbounded,
Your head with thorns surrounded,
You died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring,
The crown for me securing,
You healed my wounds and set me free.
- 6 Your cords of love, my Savior,
Bind me to You forever,
I am no longer mine.
To You I gladly tender
All that my life can render
And all I have to You resign.
- 7 Your cross I place before me;
Its saving pow'r restore me,
Sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending,
Be guiding and attending
My way to Your eternal rest.

Text and tune: Public domain

+ Readings +

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.

Today, we take a look at the chief priests and scribes, who saw Jesus as an obstacle to be rid of by violence. Yet, during the Passover festival, they would unwittingly bring about the sacrifice of the ultimate Passover Lamb. How, then, should we view those who oppose the Gospel in our day? And how might these insights guide our prayers?

Reading

Job 24:13–17

- L Job notes how those who are evil seek to hide in darkness. A reading from Job, chapter 24.

¹³“There are those who rebel against the light,
who are not acquainted with its ways,
and do not stay in its paths.

¹⁴The murderer rises before it is light,
that he may kill the poor and needy,
and in the night he is like a thief.

¹⁵The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight,
saying, ‘No eye will see me’;
and he veils his face.

¹⁶In the dark they dig through houses;
by day they shut themselves up;
they do not know the light.

¹⁷For deep darkness is morning to all of them;
for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

1 John 3:11–15

- L John writes that love is essential for those who have heard the Gospel. A reading from 1 John, chapter 3.

¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Matthew 23:29–36

- L Jesus condemns those who persecuted the prophets before Him. A reading from Matthew, chapter 23.

²⁹“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ ³¹Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. ³³You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? ³⁴Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Mark 14:1, 53–65

- L A reading from Mark, chapter 14.

¹It 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, ⁵³And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” ⁶¹But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶²And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows.

- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

- L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
L In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

Sermon

“Murderous Eyes” (Mark 14:1, 53–65)

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.

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+ Canticle +

Antiphon

LSB 231

- L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Magnificat

LSB 231

- C **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**
! for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
@ For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
! For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
@ and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
! He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
@ He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
! He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
@ He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
C **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.**

+ Prayer +

Kyrie

- C **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

Collects

- L O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

- L Lord Jesus Christ, we often have gazed with murderous hatred upon our fellow man. Look upon us with favor, forgive all our sins, and replace all hatred in our hearts with love for You and our neighbor; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Collect for Lent

- L 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.**

Collect

- L Lord Jesus Christ, You released many from their bondage to sin, death, and the devil as the healer of the nations. But when it came time to release You, the crowd chose a murderer instead. Through our co-crucifixion with You in the waters of our Baptism, may we continually be released from our sins as we confess You to be our everlasting King; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Collect for Peace

- L 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.
- C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

- L Let us bless the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

- L The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
- C **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart

877 *God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven*



- 1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:
- 2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,
- 3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,
- △ 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, All - ho - ly Son,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your
May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - bey. From the
May we in Your might - y keep - ing All peace - ful lie. When the
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,
pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,
last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,
grace, we now im - plore You, Till we lay our crowns be - fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.
Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.
But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.
And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.

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