

Grace Lutheran Church

8th and Holt – PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530



THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT: FALSE WITNESS

March 7, 2021

RETURN
to the
LORD

Midweek Service:
False Witness
(Caiaphas and the Council)

March 10 @ 7:00pm

One of the most straightforward sayings in the Book of Proverbs states, “A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness breathes out lies” (Prov. 14:5). A word of false witness can direct a series of actions in a deviant and destructive path. We find that negative action happening in the Passion account of our Lord, where we see Jesus standing before Caiaphas with a series of false witnesses seeking to defame the holy, innocent Lamb of God with untruths and lies.

False witness can be a deadly weapon. Whenever we ask, as did the psalmist, “O Lord, open my lips” (Ps. 51:15), may what we then express always be true witness set in speech that declares the praises of God.

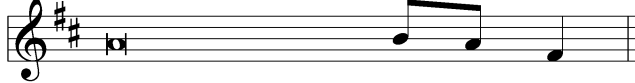
✠ VESPERS ✠

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

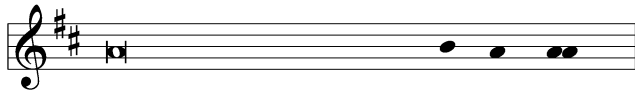


L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.

Psalm 70:1



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

PSALMODY

PSALM

Psalm 27:11–14; antiphon: v. 7

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud;*
be gracious to me and | answer me!

¹¹ Teach me Your way, | O LORD,*
and lead me on a level path because of my | enemies.

¹² Give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries;*
for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out | violence.

¹³ I believe that I shall look upon the goodness | of the LORD*
in the land of the | living!

¹⁴ Wait | for the LORD;*
be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait | for the LORD!

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

The antiphon is repeated.

OFFICE HYMN: O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day

LSB 882



1 O Christ, who art the light and day,
 2 All - ho - ly Lord, in hum - ble prayer
 3 Our sleep be pure from sin - ful stain;
 4 A - sleep though wea - ried eyes may be,



Thou driv - est night and gloom a - way;
 We ask to - night Thy watch - ful care.
 Let not the tempt - er van - tage gain
 Still keep the heart a - wake to Thee;



O Light of Light, whose Word doth show
 O grant us calm re - pose in Thee,
 Or our un - guard - ed flesh sur - prise
 Let Thy right hand out - stretched a - bove



The light of heav'n to us be - low.
 A qui - et night, from per - ils free.
 And make us guilt - y in Thine eyes.
 Guard those who serve the Lord they love.

5 Behold, O God, our shield, and quell
 The crafts and subtleties of hell;
 Direct Thy servants in all good,
 Whom Thou hast purchased with Thy blood.

6 O Lord, remember us who bear
 The burden of the flesh we wear;
 Thou who dost e'er our souls defend,
 Be with us even to the end.

△7 All praise to God the Father be,
 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
 Whom with the Spirit we adore
 Forever and forevermore. Amen.

Text and tune: Public Domain

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

Leviticus 24:13–16

P A reading from Leviticus, chapter 24.

¹³Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁴“Bring out of the camp the one who cursed, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him. ¹⁵And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. ¹⁶Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Acts 22:12–16

P A reading from Acts, chapter 22.

[Paul said,] ¹²“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know His will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from His mouth; ¹⁵for you will be a witness for Him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:57–68

P A reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end.

⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’”

⁶²And the high priest stood up and said, “Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?” ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.”

⁶⁴Jesus said to him, “**You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.**”

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard His blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your judgment?”

They answered, “He deserves death.”

⁶⁷Then they spit in His face and struck Him. And some slapped Him, ⁶⁸saying, “Prophecy to us, You Christ! Who is it that struck You?”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR LENT

Psalm 51:14; Psalm 59:1; Psalm 141:8



- L** 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



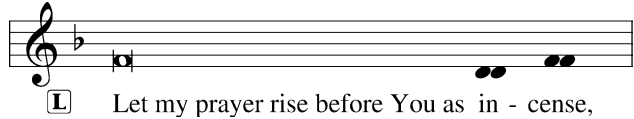
- C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

SERMON

Rev. Beyer, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church (Holtville, CA)

CANTICLE

Stand



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

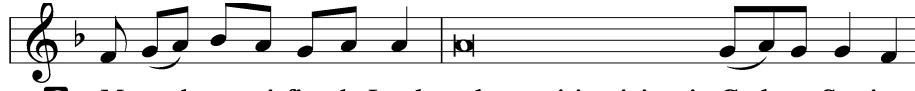


C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

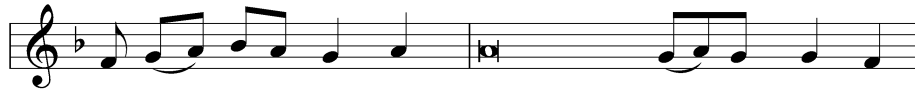
Psalm 141:2

MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1:46-55



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



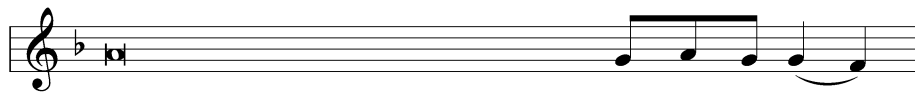
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.

II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy
 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.
 G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

PRAYER

Kneel or Remain Standing

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

G Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,
 Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as
 it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly
 bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give
 those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -
 to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
 For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -
 ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

COLLECTS



P The Lord be with you.



G And with your spir - it.

2 Timothy 4:22

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR LORD'S PASSION

P Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



G A - men.

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.



G A - men.

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



L Let us bless the Lord.



G Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



G A - men.

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)