



Lent Midweek 3

March 10, 2021 - 7:00pm

AS WE GATHER

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” (Proverbs 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” (Psalm 51:15), may what we then express always be true witness set in speech that declares the praises of God.

Return From False Witness

⊕ PREPARATION ⊕

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Lisa Dove

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “How Deep The Father’s Love For Us”

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| <p>1. How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory</p> <p>2. Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished</p> | <p>3. I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom</p> |
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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ⊕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Joel 2:13; Psalm 86:6-7

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

P Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;

C **listen to my plea for grace.**

P In the day of my trouble I call upon You,

C **for You answer me.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness. Together we sing stanzas 1-3 of the hymn "Lord, to You I Make Confession."



1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
2 Yet, though con-science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to



gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,



Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -



see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
I can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.

LSB 608, v. 1-3. Text and tune: Public domain

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Let Your blessing be upon us, heavenly Father, as we pass through these holy days in which we remember the sufferings and death of our Lord; and grant that as true and faithful witnesses we follow Him in willing obedience, learn His gracious humility, and be filled with His love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

C Amen.

⚡ SERVICE OF THE WORD ⚡

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Leviticus 24:13–16

A A reading from Leviticus, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “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. And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. Whoever 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **O Lord, have mercy.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 27:11–14

P Teach me Your way, O Lord,

C **and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.**

P Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

C **for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.**

P I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord

C **in the land of the living!**

P Wait for the Lord;

C **be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

ALL **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.**

SECOND READING

Acts 22:12–16

A A reading from Acts, the twenty-second chapter.

“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came 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. And 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; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C O Lord, have mercy.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:57–68

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

A *Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And 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. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,*

C "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'"

A *And the high priest stood up and said,*

C "Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?"

A *But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to Him,*

C "I adjure You by the living God, tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God."

A *Jesus said to him,*

P "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."

A *Then the high priest tore his robes and said,*

C "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard His blasphemy. What is your judgment?"

A *They answered,*

C "He deserves death."

A *Then they spit in His face and struck Him. And some slapped Him, saying,*

C "Prophecy to us, You Christ! Who is it that struck You?"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "Thank You, God, For Saving Me"

1. **What can I give to You? What can I offer to a King**
For all the love You've shown, For all Your mercy over me?

Chorus I called Your name, You heard my cry,
Out of the grave and into life.
My heart is Yours, my soul is free.
Thank You, God, for saving me. Thank You, God, for saving me.
(2nd and 3rd time) Thank You, God, for saving me.

2. **The Rock of Salvation, My hope is built on nothing less.**
Morning by morning, How great is Your faithfulness. (Chorus)

Bridge You gave Your life upon the cross, You suffered once for all,
You made a way. Jesus in victory You rose.
You made us all Your own; Now we are saved.
Thank You, God, for saving me. Thank You, God, for saving me.
Thank You, God, for saving me, for saving me.

SERMON

THE 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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.

CLOSING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

P The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you always.

C Amen.

HYMN "Man Of Sorrows"

1. **Man of sorrows, Lamb of God; By His own betrayed
The sin of man and wrath of God; Has been on Jesus laid**
2. **Silent as He stood accused; Beaten, mocked, and scorned
Bowing to the Father's will; he took a crown of thorns**

Chorus: **Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation;
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out God have mercy;
Praise and honor unto Thee**

3. **Sent of heaven, God's own Son; To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones; Who nailed Him to that tree** *Chorus*

Bridge: **Now my debt is paid, It is paid in full
By the precious blood, That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin, Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed**

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