

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lohman (Stringtown), Missouri
Phone (573) 782-3191 Cell: (573) 818-2112
Brian Whittle, Pastor
Email: stjohnstringtown@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnstringtown.org
Facebook: fb.me/stjohnstringtown/

March 10, 2021 † Midweek of Lent 3

RETURN FROM FALSE WITNESS

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.

Stand

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** 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 27:11–14

- 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.**

Sit

OFFICE HYMN

“O Blessed Light, O Trinity” (LSB 890)

+ READINGS +

FIRST READING

Leviticus 24:13–16

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

¹³ Then 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. ¹⁵ And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. ¹⁶ 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.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Christ, the Life of All the Living” (LSB 420)

SECOND READING

Acts 22:12–16

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

¹² And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for Him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And 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.

SERIES HYMN

“Break Your Hearts” (*See insert*)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:57–68

P A reading from St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

⁵⁷ Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” ⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, “Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?” ⁶³ But 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.” ⁶⁴ Jesus 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.” ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard His

blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷ Then they spit in His face and struck Him. And some slapped Him, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophecy to us, You Christ! Who is it that struck You?"

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY

LSB, p. 231

P 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.**

P 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.**

P 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

+ CANTICLE +

Stand

ANTIPHON

LSB, p. 231

P Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT
934)

"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord" (*LSB*)

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

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

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB, p. 233

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

P O Lord, hear my prayer.
C And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Lord God, in You we find the truth about our world and our lives. Spare us from the ravages of false witness. And when we fall, lift us up again and lead us to Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND
THANKSGIVING

COLLECT FOR LENT

P Faithful God, through the ancient prophets You call us to return to You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Let these Lenten days be a time when, remembering how You relentlessly return to us in mercy, we return also to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

COLLECT AT EVENING

P Loving God, the light of Your love for us never dims. As yet another day comes to a close and darkness falls, help us by Your Holy Spirit to rest in the light of Your constant presence; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P Ever-present God, in the midst of this world fractured by sin, You bring wholeness and peace. Where our lives are broken, make us whole again. And where we are experiencing turmoil, bring us calm. For our hope is in You; 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

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from *Lutheran Service Book*

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.