



MIDWEEK OF LENT 3 – MARCH 10, 2021

## 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.

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*Stand*

**P** The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C** **to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**

**P** to herald Your love in the morning,

**C** **Your truth at the close of the day.**

### **Confession**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for self-examination.*

**P** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

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

**C** **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

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

**C** **Amen.**

### **Psalms 27:11-14**

**P** <sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD,

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

**P** <sup>12</sup>Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

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

**P** <sup>13</sup> | believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD

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

**P** <sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD;

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

*Sit*

## 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

sts. 1, 5-7



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I  
6 Thou hast suf - fered great af - flic - tion And hast borne it  
7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, For Thy sor - rows



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
might be free; False - ly did Thy foes ac - cuse Thee:  
pa - tient - ly, E - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion,  
deep and sore, For Thine an - guish in the Gar - den,



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,  
Thence I gain se - cu - ri - ty; Com - fort - less Thy  
Ful - ly to a - tone for me; Thou didst choose to  
I will thank Thee ev - er - more, Thank Thee for Thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
soul did lan - guish Me to com - fort in my an - guish.  
be tor - ment - ed That my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
groan - ing, sigh - ing, For Thy bleed - ing and Thy dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
For that last tri - um - phant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

### Reading: Leviticus 24:13–16

**P** A reading from Leviticus, chapter 24.

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>14</sup>“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. <sup>15</sup>And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. <sup>16</sup>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.

### Reading: Acts 22:12–16

**P** A reading from Acts, chapter 22.

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

### Reading: Matthew 26:57–68

**P** A reading from Matthew, chapter 26.

<sup>57</sup>Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup>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. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup>but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came

forward <sup>61</sup>and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup>And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>63</sup>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." <sup>64</sup>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." <sup>65</sup>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. <sup>66</sup>What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." <sup>67</sup>Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, <sup>68</sup>saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

## Responsory

*LSB 255*

**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.**

## Break Your Hearts



1 Break your hearts with mourn-ing And your pride in two,  
2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing, Hung up - on the tree.  
3 Gath - er all in num - ber From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - dorn-ing Your re - pen-tance true.  
It is vain de - ny - ing What is plain to see:  
E - ven those in slum - ber Wait for trum-pets clear.



With your tears and fast - ing, From your God dis - cern  
While His heart is break - ing, Still your God will earn  
When the Lord grants bless - ing, Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.  
Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.  
Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

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## Sermon

*Stand*

## Prayer

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
- C** **listen to my cry.**
- P** Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
- C** **hide me in the shadow of Your wings.**
- P** In righteousness I shall see You;
- C** **when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.**

## Additional Collects

*Each petition concludes with:*

- P** ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen**

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 257

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 258

**P** Guide us waking, O Lord,  
and guard us sleeping  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep we may rest in peace.

**C** **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;  
Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:  
a light to reveal You to the nations  
and the glory of Your people Israel.  
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.  
Guide us waking, O Lord,  
and guard us sleeping  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

## Benediction

LSB 259

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless us and keep us.

**C** Amen.

## 890 O Blessed Light, O Trinity

1 O bless - ed Light, O Trin - i - ty, O ev - er -  
2 To You our morn - ing song of praise, To You our  
△ 3 All glo - ry be to God a - bove And to the  
last - ing U - ni - ty: As now the fi - ery  
eve - ning prayer we raise; We praise Your light in  
Son, the Prince of love, And to the Spir - it,  
sun de - parts, Send forth Your light in - to our hearts.  
ev - 'ry age, The glo - ry of our pil - grim - age.  
One in Three! We praise You, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

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Faith Lutheran Church  
3501 E. Highland Rd., Highland, MI 48356 (248) 887-5550  
Church E-mail --- [office@fiathhighland.com](mailto:office@fiathhighland.com) Website --- [faithhighland.com](http://faithhighland.com)

## Sunday Worship

Services are at **8:30** and **11:00 a.m.**

Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School at **9:45 a.m.**