

Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran

Mar 10, 2021

Midweek in Lent - 3



In Christ the Cornerstone...Living His Word, Sharing His Love

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“Return from False Witness”

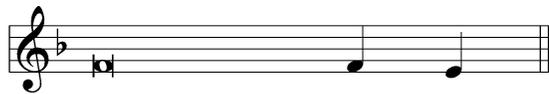
Sin begets more sin. In this case, Judas’s betrayal brings Jesus before Caiaphas and the Council, where the sin of false witness prevails. What did God actually mean in the Eighth Commandment when He said that you should “not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16)? The false witness in the sham trial was evident, but ours is seldom so. What are the ways that we transgress the commandment? And how does our failure lead us away from God? God calls us to turn from our sin, to look to Him, and to find our rest and identity in Him. When we do, Jesus takes our sins—even our false witness against Him—and offers us forgiveness: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

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Versicles (Lent)



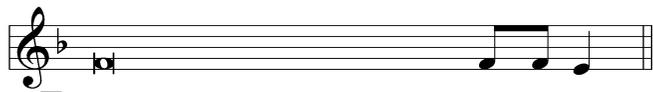
L Now is the time of God's fa - vor;



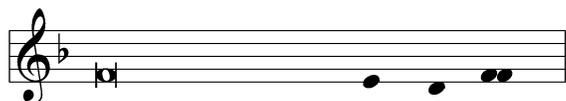
C now is the day of sal-va - tion.



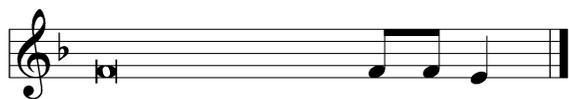
L Turn us again, O God of our sal - va - tion,



C that the light of Your face may shine on us.



L May Your justice shine like the sun;



C and may the poor be lift - ed up.



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



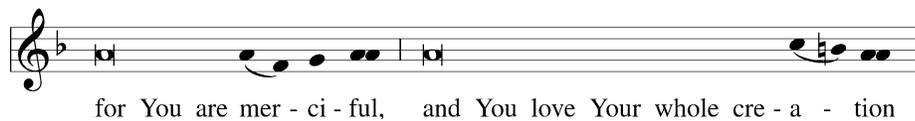
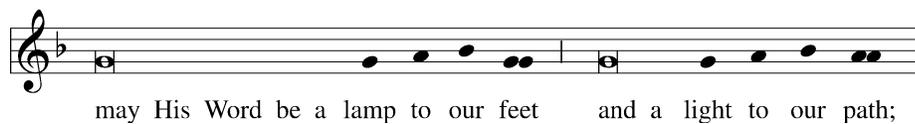
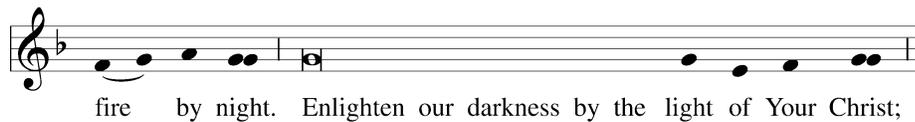
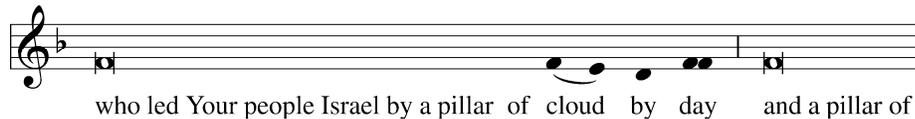
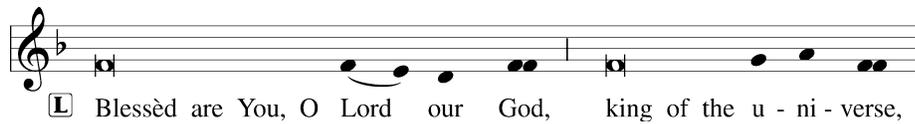
You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.





C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** 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.



C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Psalm Prayer

P Let us pray. Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Reading

Leviticus 24:13-16

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.

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.

Jesus Before Caiaphas

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.

- P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

543 What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
 neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
 is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
 sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

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Sermon - "Return From False Witness"

Canticle/945 Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved



1 O God, Father in heav-en, have mer-cy up-on us.
 2 O Son of God, Redeemer of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir-it, have mer-cy up-on us.



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, By ev-'ry
 Your arms ex-tend, O Christ, to save From sting of
 O lav-ish Giv-er, come to aid The fee-ble



e-vil, ev-'ry woe; Up-on Your cross-for-
 death and grasp of grave; Your scars be-fore the
 child Your grace has made. Now make us grow and



sak-en Son Our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa-ther move His heart to mer-cy at such love.
 help us pray; Bring joy and com-fort; come to stay.

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Offering / Hymn: 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

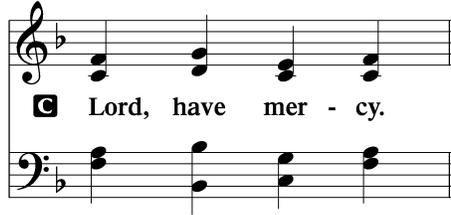


His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.
Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.
Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

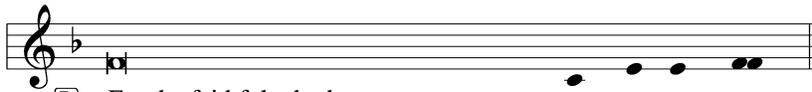
P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

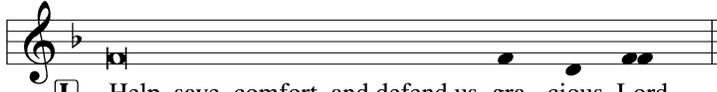
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

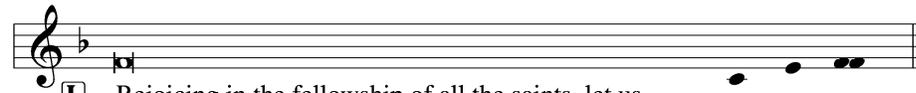


C Thanks be to God.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

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.



C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

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.



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.



C A - men.

883 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
 2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that
 3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as
 4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bles - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
 I this day have done, That with the world, my -
 lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that
 sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
 self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
 so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.
 vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

5 When in the night I sleepless lie,
 My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;
 Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
 No pow'rs of darkness me molest.

△ 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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Acknowledgments

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~ Return to the Lord ~

In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord:

“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13). God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares.

During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme “Return to the Lord” and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God's grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God's wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to “turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him” (Joel 2:14).

	WED FEB 17 7 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY “A Call to Return”	
	WED Feb 24 7 pm	LENT 1 “Return to Prayer” Peter, James, & John/Gethsemane	
	WED MAR 3 7 pm	LENT 2 “Return from Betrayal” Judas	
	WED MAR 10 7 pm	LENT 3 “Return from False Witness” Caiaphas and the Council	
	WED MAR 17 7 pm	LENT 4 “Return from Denial ” Peter	
	WED MAR 24 7 pm	LENT 5 “Return to the Kingdom of God ” Pontius Pilate	
	THUR APR 1 7 pm	MAUNDY THUR “Return to the Table ” Jesus’ invitation (First Communion)	
	FRI APR 2 7 pm	GOOD FRIDAY “Return to the Cross ” 7 Last Words	
	SUN APR 4 7 am	EASTER SUNRISE “Return to the Church ” What was accomplished	
	SUN APR 4 930 am	EASTER FESTIVAL “ Return and See ” Christ is risen	