

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

205 E. 7th St. Lexington, NE 68850

(308) 324-4341 www.tlclex.org

Senior Pastor Rob Kuefner rkuefner@tlclex.org (308) 746-2270

Visitation Pastor Bill Ohlmann wohlmann@tlclex.org (308) 325-0069

Administrative Assistant Maria Rodriguez mrodriguez@tlclex.org

Supported Missionaries Rev. Chuck Ferry and Family & Chelsea Irwin

"Equipping Disciples to Make Disciples for Jesus"



Lenten Midweek 3

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 6:15 p.m.

RETURN FROM FALSE WITNESS

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.

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB #420



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



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.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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INVOCATION

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

G 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."

HYMN OF CONFESSION

"Lord, to You I Make Confession"

LSB #608 V. 1-3

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.
lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - quish.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

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!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Leviticus 24:13–16 (ESV)

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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Acts 22:12–16 (ESV)

P A reading from Acts, the twenty-second chapter

Acts 22:12–16 (ESV)

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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:57–68 (ESV)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY*Jesus, Refuge of the Weary***LSB #423**

1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
 pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
 love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
 Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
 grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

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SERMON*Return from False Witness***OFFERING** *(Offering and attendance cards can be placed in basket at the back.)***PRAYERS OF THE DAY**

- P** God our Father, You allowed Your Son to face injustice and untruths which led to His suffering and death on our behalf,
- G** **During these Lenten days, forgive us when our lives are filled with lies and we slander and hurt others by our thoughts, actions and words;**

- P** Faithful God, through the ancient prophets You call us to return to You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- G** **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.**
- P** Ever-present God, stay with us, for darkness has come and the day is now past. Forgive, we pray, both our neglect in doing good this day and the wrongs we have done.
- G** **Awaken us in the morning, bathed in the light of our Baptism, so that we will be ready to love and serve You and our neighbor;**
- P** God our strength, the peace You provide through the cross of Christ flows like a river through the chaos of our lives. Lead us to drink deeply from the still waters of Your peace, and thereby dispel our anxieties and fears, so that we may serve you with humility and grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- G** **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.
- G** **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.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB #427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

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Acknowledgments

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Preacher: Pastor Rob Kuefner
Liturgist: Pastor Bill Ohlmann
Organist: Chuck Messerschmidt