

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLENDORA
February 24, 2021

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.

Our guest preacher this evening is Pastor Dan Barz of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Buchanan. Pastor Barz completed his seminary training at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, and has served St. Paul since. Pastor Barz and his wife Ann have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. This year they will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary.

PREPARATION

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living *sts. 1, 5–7*

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving, To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit, I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto 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 T 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.”

608 Lord, to You I Make Confession *sts. 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 - guish.

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- 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.**

WORD

First Reading

Leviticus 24:13–16

- P A reading from Leviticus, the twenty-fourth chapter.
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 This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms *Psalms 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.**

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, 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 This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

543 What Wondrous Love Is This

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down
Beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on. And when from death I’m free,
I’ll sing His love for me, And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

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Holy Gospel *Matthew 26:57–68*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**
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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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

The Litany

L O Lord, C **have mercy.**
 L O Christ, C **have mercy.**
 L O Lord, C **have mercy.**
 L O Christ, C **hear us.**
 L God the Father in heaven, C **have mercy.**
 L God the Son, Redeemer of the world, C **have mercy.**
 L God the Holy Spirit, C **have mercy.**
 L Be gracious to us. C **Spare us, good Lord.**
 L Be gracious to us. C **Help us, good Lord.**
 L From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
 From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
 From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
 From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
 C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
 By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross
 and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
 By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the
 Comforter:
 C **Help us, good Lord.**
 L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day
 of judgment:
 C **Help us, good Lord.**
 L We poor sinners implore You
 C **to hear us, O Lord.**
 L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your
 Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain
 them in holy living;
 To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who
 have erred and are deceived;
 To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to
 accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
 C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
 L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the
 weakhearted and the distressed:
 C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
 L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to
 give our country Your protection in every time of need;
 To direct and defend our [president] and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates
 and all our people;
 To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide
 all who travel;
 To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in
 their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
 To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to
 have mercy on us all:
 C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
 L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and
 preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:
 C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
 L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
 C **we implore You to hear us.**
 L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
 C **have mercy.**
 L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
 C **have mercy.**
 L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
 C **grant us Your peace.**

L O Christ, C **hear us.**
L O Lord, C **have mercy.**
L O Christ, C **have mercy.**
L O Lord, C **have mercy. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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 T Son, and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you always.
C **Amen.**

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time,
All the light of sacred story, Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming, Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming, Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

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