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The Third Midweek of Lent

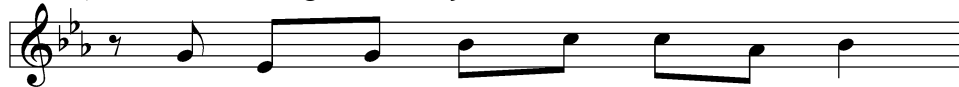
March 10, 2021

Lenten Vespers

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.

882 O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day



1 O Christ, who art the light and day,
2 All - ho - ly Lord, in hum - ble prayer
3 Our sleep be pure from sin - ful stain;
4 A - sleep though wea - ried eyes may be,



Thou driv - est night and gloom a - way;
We ask to - night Thy watch - ful care.
Let not the tempt - er van - tage gain
Still keep the heart a - wake to Thee;



O Light of Light, whose Word doth show
O grant us calm re - pose in Thee,
Or our un - guard - ed flesh sur - prise
Let Thy right hand out - stretched a - bove



The light of heav'n to us be - low.
A qui - et night, from per - ils free.
And make us guilt - y in Thine eyes.
Guard those who serve the Lord they love.

5 Behold, O God, our shield, and quell
The crafts and subtleties of hell;
Direct Thy servants in all good,
Whom Thou hast purchased with Thy
blood.

6 O Lord, remember us who bear
The burden of the flesh we wear;
Thou who dost e'er our souls defend,
Be with us even to the end.

△ 7 All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
Whom with the Spirit we adore
Forever and forevermore. Amen.

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

- P** ¹¹Teach me your way, | O LORD,*
and lead me on a level path
because of my | enemies.
C ¹²Give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries;*
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out | violence.
P ¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness | of the LORD*
in the land of the | living!
C ¹⁴Wait | for the LORD;*
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait | for the LORD!
C 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

Readings

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 O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

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 O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

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

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.

Lent Responsory

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.

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.

Sermon

Canticle

Stand

Antiphon

- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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Sit

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

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

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.**

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.

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.**

Stand

Benedicamus

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

- 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.**

Break Your Hearts

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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Announcements

Midweek Lenten Vespers Services are on Wednesdays at 7pm.

The **Ladies Bible Study** is studying Words of Life from the Cross on Wednesday morning at 10am.

Church Council next meeting is **Mar 21 at 9am**.

Electronic Giving is now available through the church website: HolyCrossCanton.com

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