

✠ SERVICE OF VESPERS ✠

RETURN FROM FALSE WITNESS

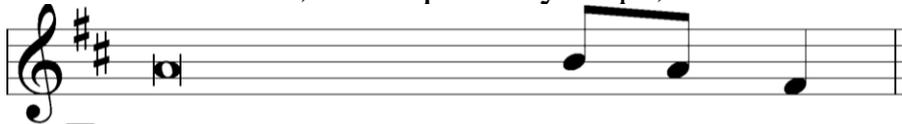
One of the most straightforward sayings in the Book of Proverbs states, “A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness breathes out lies” (Proverbs 14:5). A word of false witness can direct a series of actions in a deviant and destructive path. We find that negative action happening in the Passion 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.

Stand

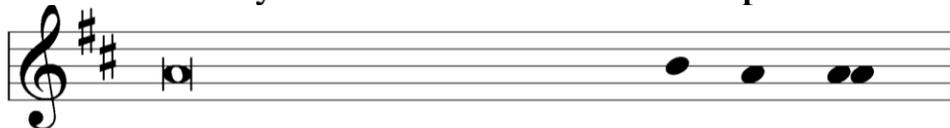
OPENING VERSES



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - - tion.

✠ PSALMODY ✠

(Psalm 27:11-14)

Pastor: Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Cong.: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

Cong.: Wait for the Lord, be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

All: 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.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN

“O Blessed Light, O Trinity” [LSB hymn 890]

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.

Sit

✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

First Reading (page 103 in the pew Bibles)

Leviticus 24:13-16

Elder: A Reading from Leviticus, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “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. And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. 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.

Elder: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

Elder: A Reading from Acts, the twenty-second chapter.

“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 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. 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; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

Elder: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

SERIES 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.

Gospel Reading (page 833 in the pew Bibles)

Matthew 26:57-68

Pastor: A Reading from St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. 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. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" 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." 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." 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. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

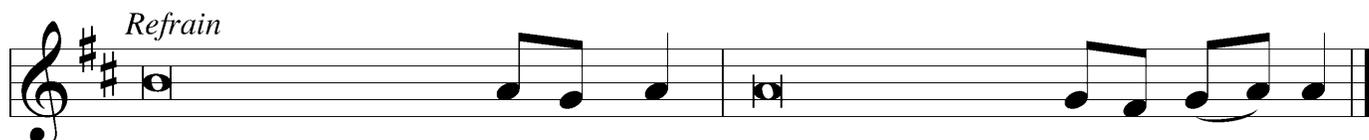
Cong.: Thanks be to God.

Sit

RESPONSORY FOR LENT



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

HYMN "Christ, the Life of All the Living" [LSB hymn 420:1, 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,

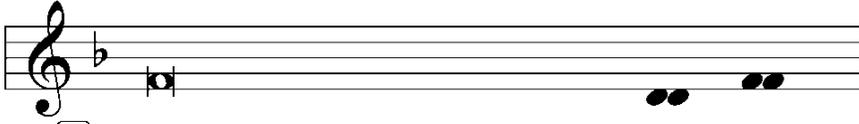


Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 For that last tri - um - phant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on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

SERMON
"Return From False Witness"
(Pastor Jim Toma)

Stand

✠ CANTICLE ✠



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



MAGNIFICAT

My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
 joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the
 Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son

1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
 2 and holy is His name;
 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;

1 For be - hold, from this day
 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

Continues on next page

1 all generations will call me blessed.
 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
 5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

OFFERINGS

You may place your offering in the plate as you exit the service.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, our jealous God, save the third and fourth generations that will come after us from Your punishment by filling us with Your Son's zeal for Your house in these Lenten days, that we may cast out every idol from our hearts and love only You and Your commandments. Lord, in Your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, our God, You have brought us out of slavery to sin through Christ Jesus, whom You have made to be our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Bless all those whom You send to preach Christ crucified to us, that we may ever know and live in the truth of Your power in His cross. Lord, in Your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in Your fear, and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life. Lord, in Your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord of the perfect Law, You have called us to honor our parents and all other authorities, that it might go well with us in our land. Bless all those who watch over and govern us in Your stead. Make them wise in Your ways, that Your justice may be upheld among us, and help us to serve and obey them in accord with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, whose steadfast love in Christ is good, turn in Your abundant mercy to all who suffer in our midst, that the flood may not sweep over them nor the pit close its mouth on them. Deliver them from sinking into the mire and deep waters, and grant them healing, comfort and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, as three days after the temple of Your Son's body was destroyed by wicked men He raised it up again, grant that on the Last Day we and all the saints who now rest in Your presence may share in the glory of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Pastor: *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Cong.: Amen.

KYRIE



Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6: 9-13)

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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

Pastor: O Lord, hear my prayer.

Cong.: And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

Cong.: Amen.

COLLECT FOR LENT

Pastor: 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.

Cong.: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Cong.: Amen.

POSTLUDE

SERVING OUR LORD AND HIS PEOPLE THIS EVENING

4:00 pm

7:00 pm

Elder/Reader Steve Snyder
Organist: Matthew Laub

Adam Volkert

Acknowledgments

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LENT & EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

RETURN TO THE LORD

Wednesday Services at 4:00 PM (masks required) & 7:00 PM (masks optional)

March 17 “Return from Denial” Pastor Mark Jasa

March 24 “Return from Betrayal” Pastor Mark Pierson

March 28 Palm Sunday Divine Service
8:00 AM (masks required) & 11:00 AM (masks optional)

April 1 Maundy Thursday Divine Service
“Return to the Table”
4:00 PM (masks required) & 7:00 PM (masks optional)

April 2 Good Friday Service of the Word *7:00 PM (masks optional)*
“Return to Truth”

April 3 Easter Vigil Divine Service *7:00 PM (masks optional)*
“Return to the Church”

April 4 Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) Divine Service
“Return and See”
8:00 AM (masks required) & 11:00 AM (masks optional)

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE ALONE GRACE ALONE FAITH ALONE CHRIST ALONE



16351 Springdale Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92649-2773

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churchoffice@redeemer-lutheran.net Fax: 714-840-2679

Jim Toma, Pastor jbtoma@redeemer-lutheran.net

Pat Anderson, Deaconess deaconess@redeemer-lutheran.net

SCHOOL: 714-840-7117 Office Hours: Mon- Fri 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM

Lauren Heckman, Preschool Director preschool.director@redeemer-lutheran.net

Church and Preschool Website: www.redeemer-lutheran.net

CLEAR WITNESS ✝ CARING SERVICE

Our mission is to receive God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament, worship Him and grow in his grace and to share those Holy gifts, by making disciples for Christ, who reach out joyfully to the world around them.

A CONGREGATION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

RETURN
to the
LORD



MIDWEEK LENTEN 3