

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Building up God's people through His word for His world

Midweek Service: Return from False Witness

March 6, 2024 | 12:00 p.m.

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.

Prelude	"Prelude on 'Aberyswyth'"	Raymond H. Hann
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Please 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.**
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.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm **Psalm 27:11-4**

P: ¹¹Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
C: ¹²**Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
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: ¹⁴**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.**

Hymn "Break Your Hearts" **see insert**

Please sit

First Reading Leviticus 24:13-16

L: ¹³The LORD said to Moses, saying: ¹⁴Take the blasphemer outside the camp; and let all who were within hearing lay their hands on his head, and let the whole congregation stone him. ¹⁵And speak to the people of Israel, saying: Anyone who curses God shall bear the sin. ¹⁶One who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall be put to death; the whole congregation shall stone the blasphemer. Aliens as well as citizens, when they blaspheme the Name, shall be put to death.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Acts 22:12-16

L: ¹²A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there, ¹³came to me; and standing beside me, he said, "Brother Saul, regain your sight!" In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him. ¹⁴Then he said, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; ¹⁵for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name."

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

Hymn No. 420
verses 1, 5-7

Please stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:57-68

P: ⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so 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 fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" ⁶²The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" ⁶³But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, 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 clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! 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.

Please sit

Message

“Return from False Witness”

Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Antiphon

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Magnificat

P: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;

C: for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

P: For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

C: For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

P: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

C: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

P: He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

C: He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

**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.**

Offering Moment

Kyrie

All: Lord, have mercy;

Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

All: 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 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.**

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.**

Postlude

“Prelude and Fugue in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

As your schedule permits, please be seated during the postlude for a time of prayer and reflection.

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We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Ushers	Ron Voigt (lead) Goodwyn Morgan
Organist	Anne Lee
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Dan LaMaestra
Greeter	*(door) *(welcome center)
Scripture Reader	Melinda DeWan

* = unfilled as of March 5

Board of Servant Leaders

Linda Terlecki, chair
Rob Fekete, vice-chair
Drew Lipman, secretary

Laura Blackburn
Paul Kasulis
Goodwyn Morgan
Deanine Thrash

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Dan LaMaestra), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through the Mission Team, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: world and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler), synod/district, social ministry and community service (Holly Vanderhoof). Evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue) support these efforts.

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team, Caroline Ruppert) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications (Jeff Donahue), contracts, church office, calendar/program management, and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Gary James, Assisting Pastor

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Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

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Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

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Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

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Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

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Dan LaMaestra, Praise Band Director & Audio Production Specialist

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Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod