As We Gather

With all this talk about truth, you'd think that the Church would be pretty safe from untruths. And yet as foundational to our faith as it is, there always remains some who have lost the truth. And the truth is, truth can be lost. So how does that happen? It happens when we wander away, being lured by both physical and spiritual things—it happens when we give in to the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. The entirety of the Christian life, therefore, must be lived vigilantly on guard against all that would tear us away from the Truth.

Prayer before Worship

O Christ, our defender, protect us from all those whose plans would subvert Your truth through heresy and schism that, as You are acknowledged in heaven and on earth as one and the same Lord, so Your people, gathered from all nations, may serve You in unity of faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Preservice Music

Welcome & Ringing of the Bell

Confession and Absolution

We Gather Together

1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing—
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing:
Sing praises to His name—He forgets not His own.

2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
Thou, Lord, wast by our side—all glory be Thine!

3 We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be;
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation:
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free

Text: Public domain

Invocation & Verses of Truth

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Why may live on your holy hill?
C **He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart.**

P Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long
C **Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.**

P I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.
C **Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me.**

P In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility, and righteousness; let your right hand display awesome deeds.
C **Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.**

P Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
C **Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.**

P Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.
C **The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.**

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have wandered away from the truth. We have made ready our tongues like bows, to shoot lies. We go from one sin to another and do not acknowledge you. We have listened to the lies of the devil and let him deceive us. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, hav mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your truth to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Friends in Christ, God wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. In love, He chose to give us birth through the Word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all He created. And the truth is this: "That God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *Video Presentation—Ancient Words*

Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, defender of the weak, those who hold to Your truth are attacked on every side. Satan tries his hardest to replace the truth for a lie, this world is all too happy to go along with it, and our own sinful nature constantly wanders away from You. Hold us in Your truth that we may be able to withstand on the day of trial; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Job 38:1–11 *Job 38:1–11 (CSB)*

1 Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind. He said:
2 Who is this who obscures my counsel
with ignorant words?
3 Get ready to answer me like a man;
when I question you, you will inform me.
4 Where were you when I established the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
5 Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know!
Who stretched a measuring line across it?
6 What supports its foundations?
Or who laid its cornerstone
7 while the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
8 Who enclosed the sea behind doors
when it burst from the womb,
9 when I made the clouds its garment
and total darkness its blanket,,
10 when I determined its boundaries
and put its bars and doors in place,
11 when I declared, "You may come this far, but no farther;
your proud waves stop here"?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

John 8:41b–47 *John 8:41b–47 (CSB)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

"We weren't born of sexual immorality," they said. "We have one Father—God."
42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I am
here. For I didn't come on my own, but he sent me. 43 Why don't you understand what I say? Because
you cannot listen to my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your
father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there
is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the
father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Who among you can convict me
of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? 47 The one who is from God listens to God's
words. This is why you don't listen, because you are not from God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

LSB 585—Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

1 Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide.
O let Your Word, that saving light,
Shine forth undimmed into the night.

2 In these last days of great distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That we keep pure till life is spent
Your holy Word and Sacrament.

3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold
Speak tongues of fire and make us bold
To shine Your Word of saving grace
Into each dark and loveless place.

4 May glorious truths that we have heard,
The bright sword of Your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong,
Bold, unified in act and song.

5 Restrain, O Lord, the human pride
That seeks to thrust Your truth aside
Or with some man-made thoughts or things
Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.

6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
Preserve our faith our whole life through—

Your Word alone our heart's defense,
The Church's glorious confidence.

Text: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002669

Sermon *How Can the Truth Be Lost?*

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.

Offering Announcement

Prayer of the Church

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.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Address

P To those who will come to the Lord's table, I ask you to consider that this meal was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. By His true Word, He adds His own Body and Blood to the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins. By His true Word, He declares: "This is My body... This is My blood." Therefore, what we do here is not a symbol, but a sacrament where Jesus is truly present. Let those who come to this table not come to it lightly, but with true repentance, acknowledging the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine, and with a promise to also forgive those who sin against you. Jesus came to "testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to *His* voice."

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Video Presentation *Desert Song*

LSB 629—What Is This Bread

1 What is this bread?
Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break,
This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

2 What is this wine?
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace
Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

3 So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
Under the rod?
My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

4 Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul
He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

5 Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

Text: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002669

Benedicamus & Benediction

P Jesus Christ was born for this and came into the world for this:
C **to testify to the truth.**

P You who are of the truth, listen to His voice.
C **He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C **Amen.**

LSB 644—The Church's One Foundation *sts. 1–5*

1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore

Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Some Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Some Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Some Scripture quotations have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.