As We Gather

When Jesus was put on trial by Pilate, in response to his questions, Jesus said: "*I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this:* ***to testify to the truth***." (John 18:37 CSB)
If Jesus is good enough to tell us the exact reason He was born into this world, don't you think it makes sense that we pay attention? For the next 15 weeks, we are going to consider the most fundamental truths that a human being could ever discover and live by. Today, we will introduce the series, looking at how the Truth is abused in today's world, but how Jesus—the Truth—still remains relevant. As the Truth, Jesus addresses some of the deepest needs we have in human society. It's all about Jesus—the Truth.

Prayer

Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Preservice Music

Welcome & Ringing of the Bell

Confession and Absolution

LSB 496—Holy Spirit, Light Divine *sts. 1–4*

1 Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn the darkness into day.

2 Let me see my Savior's face,
Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me
Which are only known to Thee.

3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me,
From sin's bondage set me free.

4 Holy Spirit, joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace,
Let it grow and still increase.

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 *LSB 496—Holy Spirit, Light Divine, st. 5*

5 Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne,
Reign supreme, and reign alone.

Text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the King of the Jews and the King of all of creation. You alone are truth and You alone determine truth in us. Yet we often question what that truth is. Teach us Your truth and guide us in that truth that by our whole lives, we may proclaim Your saving truth to all that You have made; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading *Psalm 25:4–10 (CSB)*

4 Make your ways known to me, Lord;
teach me your paths.
5 Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
I wait for you all day long.
6 Remember, Lord, your compassion
and your faithful love,
for they have existed from antiquity.,
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my acts of rebellion;
in keeping with your faithful love, remember me
because of your goodness, Lord.
8 The Lord is good and upright;
therefore he shows sinners the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

10 All the Lord's ways show faithful love and truth
to those who keep his covenant and decrees.
11 Lord, for the sake of your name,
forgive my iniquity, for it is immense.

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

Second Reading

John 18:33–38a (CSB)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

33 Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"
34 Jesus answered, "Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about me?"
35 "I'm not a Jew, am I?" Pilate replied. "Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"
36 "My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus. "If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."
37 "You are a king then?" Pilate asked.
"You say that I'm a king," Jesus replied. "I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."
38 "What is truth?" said Pilate.

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

Children's Prayer

LSB 523—O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

2 The Church from You, dear Master,
Received the gift divine;
And still that light is lifted
O'er all the earth to shine.

It is the chart and compass
That, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands
Still guides, O Christ, to You.

3 O make Your Church, dear Savior,
A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations
Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims
By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see You face to face!

Text: Public domain

Sermon *What Is Truth?*

Apostles 'Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T **everlasting. 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.

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 T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

All I Once Held Dear (Knowing You)

1 All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;
spent and worthless now, compared to this.

ref Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.

2 Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You, and be known as Yours,

To possess by faith what I could not earn;
All-surpassing gift of righteousness.

3 Oh to know the power of Your risen life,
And to know You in Your sufferings,
To become like You in Your death, my Lord;
So with You to live, and never die.

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