As We Gather

Talking *about* the truth is different than *speaking* the truth. Starting this week, we turn our attention from the former to the latter. And where better to start than at the beginning. As those who hold to God's revealed truth, we have a completely different starting point than the rest of our world. This starting point—God's act of creation in six literal days and man's subsequent rebellion—sets the stage for a completely different understanding of the rest of life. Knowing where we came from gives us a true, solid foundation on which to view the rest of creation.

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Preservice Music

Welcome & Ringing of the Bell

Confession and Absolution

All Creatures of Our God and King

1 All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
Ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for Thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
Thou givest man both warmth and light,

O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care,
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Invocation & Verses of Truth

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

P Show me Your ways, O LORD, teach me Your paths;
C **guide me in Your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior.**

P Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth;
C **unite my heart to fear Your name.**

P Sanctify us in Your truth.
C **Your Word is truth.**

P Into Your hands I commit my spirit;
C **redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.**

Confession and Absolution

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together, as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
C **I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has filed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have**

been soiled with sin. What troubles me particularly is that in my words and actions, I have ignored God's truth. Worse, I have supplanted His truth with my opinions and have exchanged the truth about God for a lie. I am sorry for all this and ask for grace. I want to do better.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
C **Amen.**

P Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?
C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe.
In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *All Creatures of Our God and King, st. 5*

5 Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, Creator and Owner of the heavens and the earth, we face a world full of people who believe they came from nowhere and are going nowhere; that they are just accidents of evolution with no purpose to their existence. Fill us with compassion for these lost souls. Equip us through the study of Your Word and of Your creation to testify to the truth, that You created and sustain all things by Your powerful Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit as one true God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Genesis 1 *Genesis 1 (CSB)*

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.,
2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5

God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.
[6] Then God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water.” [7] So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. [8] God called the expanse “sky.” Evening came and then morning: the second day.
[9] Then God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. [10] God called the dry land “earth,” and the gathering of the water he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good. [11] Then God said, “Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.” And it was so. [12] The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. [13] Evening came and then morning: the third day.
[14] Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. [15] They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth.” And it was so. [16] God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars. [17] God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, [18] to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. [19] Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.
[20] Then God said, “Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” [21] So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. [22] God blessed them: “Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.” [23] Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.
[24] Then God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. [25] So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.
[26] Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”
[27] So God created man in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.
[28] God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” [29] God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, [30] for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. [31] God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

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

Colossians 1:15–20

Colossians 1:15–20 (CSB)

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

15 He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.
16 For everything was created by him,
in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities—
all things have been created through him and for him.
17 He is before all things,
and by him all things hold together.
18 He is also the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have
first place in everything.
19 For God was pleased to have
all his fullness dwell in him,
20 and through him to reconcile
everything to himself,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace
through his blood, shed on the cross.,

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

Children's Prayer

LSB 979—God, Whose Almighty Word

1 God, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the Gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

2 Lord, who once came to bring,
On Your redeeming wing,
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind:
Oh, now to humankind
Let there be light!

3 Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy dove,
Speed forth Your flight;
Move on the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light!

D 4 Holy and blessèd Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, love, might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the earth, far and wide,
Let there be light!

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Sermon *Where Did We Come From?*

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

P Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the holy Sacraments, making them perfect in love and in all good works, and establishing in them the faith once delivered to the saints. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in Your Church that, by their devoted service, faith may abound and Your kingdom increase. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P In Your mercy strengthen newly established congregations, and support them in challenging times. Make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and let their faith and zeal for the Gospel refresh and renew the witness of Your people everywhere. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws Help them to serve this people according to Your holy will. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless the schools of the Church and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach and work in them. Grant Your wisdom in such measure that people may serve You honorably in Church and state, and that our common life may be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Sanctify our homes with Your presence, and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism, and enable their parents to bring them up in lives of faith and devotion. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let Your blessing remain upon the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Take under Your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who put their hands to any useful task. Give them the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity (especially *[name]*). Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near (especially *[name]*). Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors (especially *[name]*). Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Spirit of truth,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

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.**

LSB 861—From All That Dwell Below the Skies

1 From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

D 3 All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore
Forever and forevermore:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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