As We Gather

As we reflect on this idea of truth, we come to realize that there are many competing claims to "truth." In our world today, just about everything is relative, including truth. But that leads us down some rather dark paths rather quickly. What is "truth" to me may, in fact, impinge on what you perceive to be "truth" leading to serious confrontations at very deep levels. But the Church refuses to play those games. We have an objective source of truth who leads and guides us through the objections and opinions of man. Only God gives us the truth.

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all truth, grant us Your heavenly peace that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Preservice Music

Welcome & Ringing of the Bell

Confession and Absolution

LSB 905—Come, Thou Almighty King *sts. 1–3*

1 Come, Thou almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing;
  Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
  Ancient of Days.

2 Come, Thou incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword;
  Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness
  On us descend.

3 Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
  In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art,

Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

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 The LORD is near to all who call on him,
C **to all who call on him in truth**

P I, the LORD, speak the truth.
C **I declare what is right.**

P The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
C **We have seen his glory, the glory of the On and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Confession and Absolution

P This is the message we have hear from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.
C **If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
C **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

P If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
C **If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.**

P My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
C **He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.**

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

P The truth is that you are a sinner who has earned the wrath of God. But more than that, the truth is that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, "of whom I am the worst," so that you and I might be set free to serve Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I speak not my words, but His: 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 905—Come, Thou Almighty King, st. 4*

D 4 To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

Text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P Lord God, our heavenly Father, You are unlike any other so-called "gods." They are known and worshiped through blocks of wood and chunks of metal that cannot hear, speak, or help in any way. But You are known and worshiped through Your Son, the Word made flesh, truth incarnate. Help us to bring our lives in line with Him so that we see you as you are: the God who determines truth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading *Isaiah 45:18–25 (CSB)*

18 For this is what the Lord says—
the Creator of the heavens,
the God who formed the earth and made it,
the one who established it
(he did not create it to be a wasteland,
but formed it to be inhabited)—
he says, "I am the Lord,
and there is no other.
19 I have not spoken in secret,
somewhere in a land of darkness.
I did not say to the descendants of Jacob:
Seek me in a wasteland.
I am the Lord, who speaks righteously,
who declares what is right.
20 "Come, gather together,
and approach, you fugitives of the nations.
Those who carry their wooden idols
and pray to a god who cannot save

have no knowledge.
21 Speak up and present your case,—
yes, let them consult each other.
Who predicted this long ago?
Who announced it from ancient times?
Was it not I, the Lord?
There is no other God but me,
a righteous God and Savior;
there is no one except me.
22 Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth.
For I am God,
and there is no other.
23 By myself I have sworn;
truth has gone from my mouth,
a word that will not be revoked:
Every knee will bow to me,
every tongue will swear allegiance.
24 It will be said about me, 'Righteousness and strength
are found only in the Lord. " '
All who are enraged against him
will come to him and be put to shame.
25 All the descendants of Israel
will be justified and boast in the Lord.

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

Second Reading *John 1:1–14, 16–17 (CSB)*

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

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. 4 In him was life,, and that life was the light of men. 5 That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.
6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.
9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.,
10 He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, 13 who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.

14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only
Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 16 Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his
fullness, 17 for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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

LSB 712—Seek Ye First

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you!
Allelu, alleluia!

2 Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!

3 Man does not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,
Allelu, alleluia!

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Sermon *Who Determines Truth?*

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 exhort you in Christ that you give attention to this gift of Christ in true faith; that you come understanding that in this sacrament, God truly adds the

Body and Blood of Christ to this bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. What we do here is not just a symbol or a sign; it is a sacrament instituted by God and gives to us for forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith. Therefore take note of and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood. Receive this bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, knowing that forgiveness is coming to you personally, and Jesus is at work in your life.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Words of Institution

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

Chief of Sinners Though I Be—Koine Worship

LSB 621—Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.

2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,

Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.

4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 & 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 801—How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; Refrain

ref Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" Refrain

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