

# Three Words of Truth

## What Is Truth?

April 3, 2019

### Bells

### Opening Hymn

**“Just As I Am, without One Plea”**

*Hymn 397*

### Invocation

(Pastor/Congregation)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. The devil, the world, and my sinful nature assault me persistently with lies that compete for my attention. Though your gentle whisper calls to me, I have all too often failed to—even at times chosen not to—listen. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.**

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### Prayer

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### Psalm 33

page 79 in the front of the hymnal

### Psalm Prayer

M: Lord God, through your Son you made the heavens and the earth; through him you continue to rule over all things. Make us, your chosen people, witnesses of your power and heralds of your glory to the praise of your unfailing love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Kindergarten in 3:30 service

**“There is a Green Hill Far Away”**

There is a green hill far away, Outside a city wall,  
Where our dear Lord was crucified, Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell, What pains He had to bear,  
But we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.

He loved us then, He loves us still, Oh, may we love Him too,  
And show each day we are His friends By all we say and do.

### The Passion History

### Condemned and Crucified

“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then wove a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they worshiped him. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back

inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate asked. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You have no power over me that was not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar’s. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as The Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” All the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!” Then he released Barabbas to them and handed Jesus over to be crucified. The soldiers took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then, ‘they will say to the mountains: Fall on us; and to the hills: Cover us.’ For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. There they crucified him, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

## Response

M: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

## Hymn

**“Were You There”**

*Hymn 119*

## Sermon Text

**John 18:33-40**

<sup>33</sup>Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup>Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup>“You are a king then?” Pilate asked. Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup>“What is truth?” Pilate said to him. After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you?” <sup>40</sup>Then they shouted back, “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

## **“What Is Truth?”**

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## Offering

## Evening Prayer

M: O God our Father, by your mercy and might, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection, we commit each

other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing**

M: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself. May the power of the Lord  
Jesus make us strong to do his will. May the peace of the Lord Jesus fill our  
lives.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**“Now the Light Has Gone Away”**

*Hymn 593*

