



TRUTH

**February 21, 2024
Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maineville, Ohio
Guest Preacher: Pastor Luke Italiano**

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.**

Like the disciples, I have boldly declared loyalty to you only to fail to proclaim your name; I have foolishly listened to the devil's lies only to be crushed with guilt and shame.

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 1 (page 1 in the Psalter)

The minister will read the first half of each verse.

The congregation will read the second half of each verse.

Psalm Prayer

M: Lord, let your Word so saturate our souls that we grow into lush trees bearing fruit for you. When the voices of the wicked tempt us to stray down other paths, keep us on the way that leads to our heavenly home. We ask this, confident that you watch over the way of the righteous; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Passion Reading from a Harmony of the Gospels: Passover and the Lord's Supper

Seasonal Response

C: **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: O JESUS, KING MOST WONDERFUL

543

Sermon on John 18:33-40

Truth

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴ "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

⁴⁰ They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

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.

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: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

C: Amen.

HYMN: NOW REST BENEATH NIGHT'S SHADOW

794

We thank Pastor Luke Italiano for sharing God's Word with us.
Please join us next week as Pastor Alex Groth leads our Lenten worship under the theme
God on Trial: Sympathy.

547 At the Name of Jesus

- 1 At the name of Jesus
 ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess him
 King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
 we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
 was the mighty Word.

- 2 At his voice creation
 sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces,
 all the hosts of light,
cherubim in heaven,
 stars upon their way,
all the heav'nly orders
 in their great array.

- 3 Humbled for a season
 to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
 unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
 spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
 when from death he passed;

- 4 Bore it up triumphant
 with its human light,
thro' all ranks of creatures
 to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
 to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory
 of that perfect rest.

- 5 In your hearts enthrone him;
 there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
 all that is not true.

Crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you
in its light and pow'r.

- 6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
shall return again
in his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817-1877, abr., alt.
Text: Public domain

543 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

- 1 O Jesus, King most wonderful,
O Majesty renowned,
O Conqueror invincible,
in whom all joys are found,
- 2 When once you visit darkened hearts,
then truth begins to shine,
then earthly vanity departs,
then kindles love divine.
- 3 O Jesus, light of all below,
O Fount of life and fire,
surpassing all the joys we know,
all that we can desire,
- 4 May ev'ry heart confess your name,
forever you adore,
enkindled with the Spirit's flame
to love you more and more.
- 5 Oh, may our tongues forever bless
and honor you alone,
and may we in our lives express
the image of your own!

794 Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

- 1 Now rest beneath night's shadow
the woodland, field, and meadow;
the world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaken,
with prayer and song be taken;
let praise to your Creator rise.
- 2 The rule of day is over
and shining jewels cover
the heaven's boundless blue.
Thus I shall shine in heaven,
where crowns of gold are given
to all who faithful prove and true.
- 3 Lord Jesus, since you love me,
O spread your wings above me
and shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would assail me,
your mercy will not fail me;
I rest in your protecting arm.
- 4 My loved ones, rest securely,
for God this night will surely
from peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may he send you
and bid his hosts attend you
and through the night watch o'er your beds.