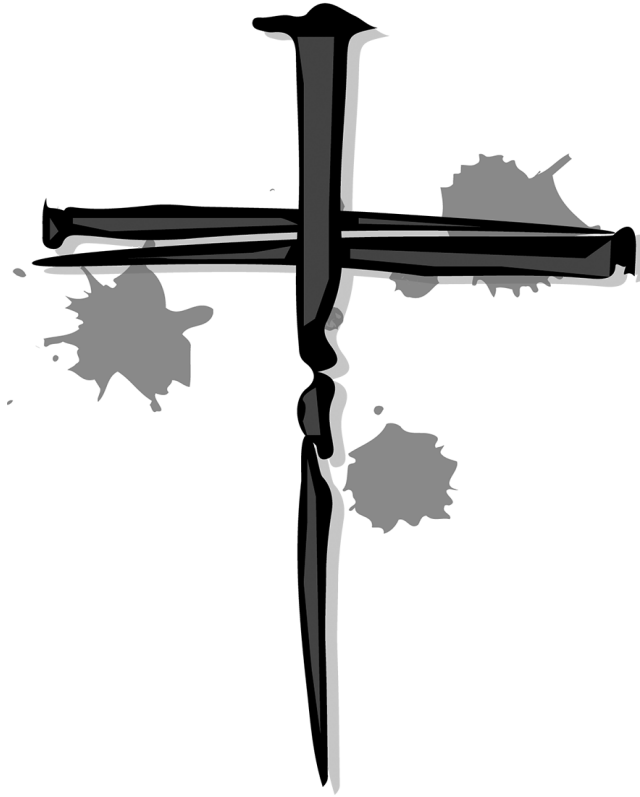


# Three Words



of  
**TRUTH**

“What Is Truth”

*St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church  
Wednesday Lenten Service  
April 3, 2019*

# Opening Hymn #590 “God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven”

**STAND**

**M:** O Lord, open my lips.



**C:** And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.

**M:** Hasten to save me, O God.



**C:** O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

**M:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**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.

*BE SEATED*

**LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU** (Psalm 141)

**C:** Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift-ing  
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**M:** Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

**Psalm 33**

*Refrain*

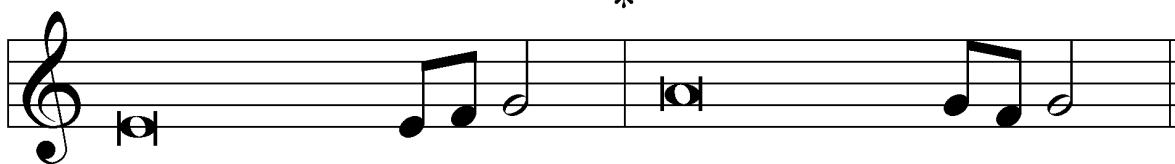


The earth is full of the good-ness of



God, the good-ness of our God.

*Psalm tone*



Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the Word of the LORD is right and true;  
he is faithful in all he does.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm. ***Refrain***

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;  
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,\*  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

The LORD loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

***Refrain: The earth is full of the goodness of God, the  
goodness of our God.***

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### **Psalm Prayer:**

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.

**C: Amen.**

### **Passion Reading: Luke 23:1-25**

**23** Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man

misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”<sup>3</sup> And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.”<sup>4</sup> Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.”<sup>5</sup> But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. <sup>9</sup> So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore punish and release him.”

<sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—<sup>19</sup> a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. <sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt

deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” <sup>23</sup> But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

## **Seasonal Response**

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 #115 “He Stood Before the Court”**

### **Sermon Theme: “What is Truth”**

### **Sermon Text: John 18:33-40**

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. <sup>39</sup> But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” <sup>40</sup> They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.



**STAND**

## **THE SONG OF MARY (Magnificat)**



**C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-**



**joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor**



**on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions**



**will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great**



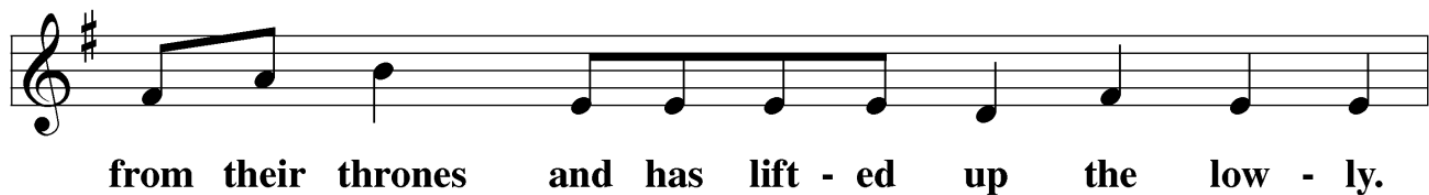
**things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on**



**those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.**



**He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the**



**BE SEATED**

# OFFERING

## PRAYER: LORD, HAVE MERCY

### *Kyrie*

**M:** In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Christ, have mer - cy.

**M:** For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**M:** For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**M:** For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



**C:** Thanks be to God.

**C:** In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



**C:** A - men.

## **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.

**SONG OF SIMEON** (*Nunc Dimittis*)



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part



ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen



your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry



peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## Blessing

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



C: A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN: #109** "When O'er My Sins I Sorrow"

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