



Standing *at the* Cross

April 1, 2020 • 7:00 p.m.

Standing in Truth

Theme Verse:

*For this purpose I was born and for this
purpose I have come into the world—
to bear witness to the truth.*

John 18:37

OPENING HYMN

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

C And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

P They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

C Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

P The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

C So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

C Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We turn away from your Word and will and follow our own sinful desires and the temptations of this world. Forgive us and strengthen us to follow our Savior.

P God sent his Son to redeem us. Jesus suffered and died on the cross and on the third day rose from the dead. Through faith in his name we have forgiveness and life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Jesus the Son has set us free!

P Lord Jesus, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. You overcame sin, death and the devil to bring us into your kingdom. Through you alone we have forgiveness for our sins and the hope and promise of eternal life in your presence. Help us to stand firm in faith in a world that does not want to hear the Truth of your Word. Lead us by your Spirit to be faithful witnesses to the Truth, the good news of salvation through faith in your name. Help us to live in love so that all people know that we are your disciples.

C Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE*Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am*
(sing 2 times)

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 43:1-5

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

EPISTLE READING: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

GOSPEL READING: John 18:33-38

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” 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.” 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.” 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.

MARTIN LUTHER QUOTE: (read in unison)

“Do you want to know what sort of a King I am and what sort of a kingdom I have? I will tell you. My kingdom is called and is a kingdom of truth ... an eternal, enduring kingdom in which are found lasting, genuine, eternal blessings.”

(Martin Luther, a third sermon for Holy Week, 1534)

SERMON—“Standing in Truth”

PRAYERS

P Jesus, our King,

C You are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

P Lord Jesus, in a world that so often seems to prefer lies to the truth, we praise you for the Truth of your holy Word and the Truth of salvation that is ours through faith in your name. Jesus, our King,

C You are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

P Lord Jesus, your kingdom is a kingdom of love and service. Work through us to bring hope and comfort to those who are suffering and in need. Help us to share with them the blessings of life in your kingdom. Jesus, our King,

C You are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

P Lord Jesus, as you confessed before Pontius Pilate, your kingdom is not of this world, yet you have called us to spread the good news of your kingdom to all nations. Help us to be bold witnesses to your saving love so that others will come to worship you as Lord and King. Jesus, our King,

C You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

P Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

C Lead me in your truth and teach me,

P For you are the God of my salvation;

C For you I wait all the day long.

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 give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

P Go in peace and Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* Olga Otte, piano