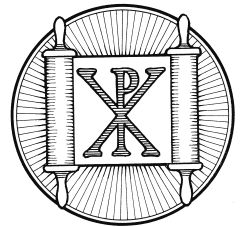


MAY 2023

Pontius Pilate says famously “What is truth?” during the fake trial he held with Jesus in front of the angry mob just before he has Jesus crucified. Pilate is not asking a serious question here. Jesus has just told him, “Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate’s response, “What is truth?” is his way of saying, “Truth doesn’t matter when facing down an angry mob which is shouting for blood. Truth will do me no good. What matters is giving them what they want so I can save my own skin. Look at that mob. Truth will not help me. What is truth compared to them?” So Pilate caves, gives in, and hands Jesus over to be crucified. (See John 18:33-40)

The Christian church is tempted to follow in the footsteps of Pilate. Are not many now faced with angry mobs and shouting voices? Mobs and voices that threaten if we don’t give our accent to abandoning our Lord’s truth? We are not insulated from it because we live in a rural part of the Thumb. While the mob and voices may not be loud here yet, you see them and hear their teachings as they find their way in through TV, movies, internet, and the media. What is truth? Truth is that which is found in God’s Word and embodied in the only begotten Son of God. But the church is tempted to do away with Him like Pilate who feared the crowd more than he feared God. It may not look like a wholesale abandonment of our Lord and His truth at first, the mob will pick away and pick away. What do they try and teach you about marriage? What do they try and teach you about men and women, children (especially the unborn), creation, money, and ethics? What is their guide? *The prudent sees danger and hides himself* [in the revealed truth of our Lord and His Word], *but the simple go on and suffer for it* (Proverbs 27:12).

Our Lord Jesus prays for His Christians on the night He was betrayed, *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth* (John 17:16-17). It is Jesus’ desire to protect us from Pilate’s insincere question and be grounded firmly in His Word of truth. This will set us apart, sanctify us, because we will bear the Word of God in our lives and in our confession of Him as the One to be exalted above the crowd. And we can do this confidently, unlike Pilate. The gates of hell will never prevail against our Lord and His Word. Our Lord’s church has a better way because it is the way of real truth and life and can actually talk of sin and forgiveness found in Christ. There is no room for that in the mob, only conform or be crucified.



So you have the truth. It’s revealed in God’s Word which is as true as Jesus’ death and resurrection for you. Ground yourself in it. Come and bask in it as it’s delivered to you every Lord’s Day (Sunday). Be strengthened against temptation as you kneel before the True God, receive His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and gain wisdom to navigate though this fallen world as a child of God.

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.
Psalms 86:11

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt

LIFE QUOTE

Jesus became incarnate as embryo, fetus and teenager, infant and adult. In this way He consecrates humankind of all ages, appearances, and abilities. The Good Lord comes close in skin and bone, the same as ours. He remains near with muscle and blood like we have. He humbly bears these sicknesses and gently carries these sorrows of ours. Jesus has crucifix-ed God on you, ever the servant and once-for-all sacrifice.

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life - lutheransforlife.org

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From the Small Catechism: Confession

What is confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Private, or individual, confession and absolution is available by appointment with Pastor Suggitt. You may call him at 989.551.3976 to set up a time.

Want to listen to good theology concerning current topics, the Bible, and Christ crucified for you? Check out *Issues, Etc.* on your computer or smartphone.

issuesetc.org



LutheranPublicRadio.org



Orphan Grain Train of Sebewaing

International shipments of goods in mercy. Open to volunteers Tuesday and Thursday each week. See Pastor on how to help.