

# Three Words of Truth

I Am He

March 27, 2019

Bells

Opening Hymn

**“What Wondrous Love Is This”**  
*Hymn 120*

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. All too often when my heart longs for peace and my soul yearns for joy, I turn to everything but you to find fulfillment. I have often ignored you and even despised you—my one and only Savior—by my self-centered and sinful thoughts, words, and actions. 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 143

page 118 in the front of the hymnal

Psalm Prayer

M: Lord Jesus, you bring light to those who dwell in darkness and make your love known to them. Enter not into judgement with your servants, but strengthen us in the saving faith and guide us into the land of perfect peace where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Grades 4-5 in 3:30 service

**“Glory Be to Jesus”**

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains poured for me the lifeblood  
from His sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; blest be His compassion, infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream which from endless torments  
did the world redeem.

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood; louder still and louder  
praise the precious blood!

The Passion History

**He Suffered Under Pontius Pilate**

To avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” the Jews objected. This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.” Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Is that your idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” “Do you think that I am a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” 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.” “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.” “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.” When Jesus was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear how many things they are accusing you of?” But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer?” But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. But the chief priests insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.” On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends – before this they had been enemies. Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and release him.” Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, because I have suffered a great deal today in a dream on account of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

### **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**

**“God Loved the World So that He Gave”**

*Hymn 391*

### **Sermon Text**

**John 18:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>So Judas took the company of soldiers and some guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who are you looking for?” <sup>5</sup>“Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied. “I am he,” Jesus told them. Judas, the betrayer, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus told them, “I am he,” they backed away and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Then Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?” “Jesus the Nazarene,” they said. <sup>8</sup>“I told you that I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: “I did not lose any of those you have given me.”

**“I Am He”**

*Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier*

### **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**

**“Abide with Me”**

*Hymn 588*