

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP 2

TRUTH

This Week's Gospels

Luke 23:36-43, John 1:9-14

The Gospel of St. Luke

³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of St. John

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Homily by Julie Lansdon

"The glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth" From John. "Full of Grace and truth" the scribe said, but what is truth? What is your first thought when hear the word truth? You might say "not lying" but that is only half the story. Truth is telling people what they need to hear. Instead of what they want, or what they expect. Whether that be telling your best friend that the relationship they were in was not the healthiest, or you just got the news that you did not get an interview for that job you really wanted. The truth can hurt. I know that you know that we all know that. We hate what the truth is in most moments. But it can also be the light at the end of the tunnel.

Take Luke for example. When Jesus was being nailed to the cross, right before he was crucified, he was put in between two common criminals, all were facing the same punishment. The criminal on his right was mocking Jesus. He said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, His chosen one!" The criminal on his left found this obscure, (as would I, have I been in his shoes) The man on his left said "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong" Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." "Truly I tell you. Today you will be with me in Paradise." Let that sink in for a second, the man on Jesus's left was speaking nothing but the truth and Jesus rewarded him with Paradise. "Truly" Jesus had said, the truth, hurtful at times can be rewarded greatly.

Think back to my examples before. Your best friend just got out of a relationship that they enjoyed but now had to say goodbye to. You think that it was not healthy in your eyes. That's the truth, but now, they can look out for people like that. And what if you did not get an interview for the job, you wanted so bad. That's also the truth. But now you can add to your resume and make it even better than before. My point is that even if you are at your lowest moment, that there seems to be no end to the truth that keeps on hitting you in the face,

there will always be tomorrow. There is always going to be another day to acknowledge that truth. To embrace it, and recognize it, to make a new and improved version of yourself. And that, (unbelievably) is also the truth.

Take me for example. right now, there is someone in my life that is not the best for me, and I know one way or another I must leave them in the past. This is a friend that I have known for more than 2 years now, and have shared everything with, from laughs to tears, and deep down, even if I do not want to, the truth is that I must let go of them. But you know what else is the truth? The fact that when I leave, that it will be my Paradise. Just like the man from Luke was promised.

Admitting that you were in the wrong, that you would have to do better, that you would have to leave them, is the hardest part when it comes to truth. But once you do it, you are already halfway there. Paradise is being handed to you on a silver platter; you just must admit those things. The man from Luke knew he was about to die, he knew his end, and asked Jesus nothing more than to just be remembered and was rewarded Paradise. Just imagine your paradise would be like if you just let go of that burden, that truth. Because that is what Paradise is. Truth.

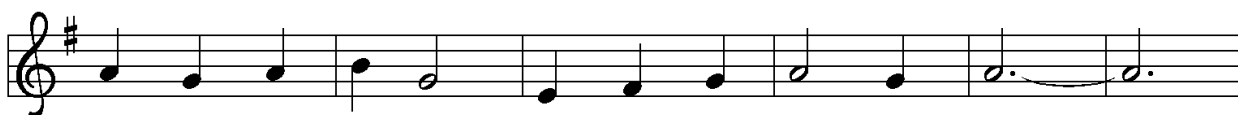
Offering ELW 715 *Christ Be Our Light*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Offering received during Hymn

Worship Leaders

Homily	Julie Lansdon
Cantor	
Lector	Bryan Johnson
Prayers	Ryan Godfrey
Sound	Brayden Chambers

2025 Mid-Week Lenten Series: *Seven Last Words*

**Holden Evening Prayer each
Wednesday @ 7pm during Lent**

March 26 (7pm) – *Here* – John 19:25-27, Matthew 22:34-40
April 2 (7pm) – *Thirsty*– John 19:28-30, Matthew 25:37-40
April 9 (7pm) – *Finished* – John 19:30-37, Revelation 21:5-6



Two Ways to Give

{ Download the new
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