



**Sermon Series: “What Is Truth?”  
Part II: Scripture**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2019  
8:00 AM WORSHIP**

**SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
101 North Lenzner Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
(520) 459-0444 - [www.selcaz.org](http://www.selcaz.org)**

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**ELW Holy Communion Setting Three**  
*(\* = Please stand as you are able)*

**GATHERING**

**Chimes** *(Please observe silence as soon as the chimes are played to assist with preparation for worship.)*

**Prelude**      “It Won't Be Long”      (Crouch, arr. Kartsonakis)

**Welcome**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor,  
let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

*Moment of Silent Confession*

God of mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
against one another,  
and against the earth entrusted to our care.  
We are worried and distracted by many things,  
and we fail to love you above all else.  
We store up treasures for ourselves  
and turn away from our neighbors in need.  
Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When we were laid low by sin and guilt,  
God made us alive together with Christ,  
forgiving us ✝ all our trespasses

by taking our sins to the cross.  
For freedom Christ has set us free:  
Rejoice in this good news!  
Amen.

**\*Gathering Hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" ELW #504**

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
they cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
through life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.

The kingdom's ours forever!

### **\*Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
And also with you.

### **Blessing of Worship Furnishings**

*Pastor:* Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God  
and we seek God's blessing as we set apart these altar  
elements to the glory of God.

*Intern:* Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, creator of the  
universe, for you have enriched our lives with every good and  
perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to  
our children; and you have invited us to praise you with lives  
of love, justice, and joy.

*Candlesticks:*

*Altar Guild Representative:* Send your blessing on  
these candlesticks, which we set apart today;  
may they be to us a sign of Christ, the Light of the world,  
the light no darkness can overcome.

*Flower vase(s):*

*Altar Guild Representative:* Send your blessing on these vases which we set apart today; may they serve to increase our vision of your glory, to remind us of your goodness, and to support our calling to worship you in spirit and truth.

*Pastor:* We thank you for the generosity and faithfulness that prompted the donation of these items. Bless those givers and all who share out of their abundance that they may continue to find joy in giving and strength in serving you and your people. Amen.

**\*Canticle of Praise** ELW pg. 140  
(vs 1 - Women; vs 2 - Men, vs 3 - All, vs. 4 - All)

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**vs. 1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**vs. 2 Power, riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**vs. 3 Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**vs. 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-11**

Pew Bible pg. 598

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on  
them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

L: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17**

Pew Bible pg. 967

<sup>4</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

L: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW pg. 142**

**\*Gospel: John 1:1-4, 10-14**

Pew Bible pg. 862

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>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.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Special Music "Together" (Composed & Sung by Linda Perry)

Sermon

Pastor Mark Perry

Sermon Series: "What Is Truth? Part II: Scripture"

*Moment of Silent Reflection*

\*Hymn of the Day "O Word of God Incarnate"

ELW #514

1 O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance  
that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps,  
shines on from age to age.

2 The church from you, dear Master,  
received the gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted  
o'er all the earth to shine.

It is the chart and compass  
that, all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands  
still guides, O Christ, to you.

3 Oh, make your church, dear Savior,  
a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations  
your true light, as of old;  
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims  
by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended,  
they see you face to face.

### **\*Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*Prayers of the People** *(to the conclusion, "Lord, in your mercy," please respond, "hear our prayer.")*

## **\*Sharing of the Peace**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

(Please share a sign of peace with one another)

## **MEAL**

### **Offering**

**Offering Music**      "You Are Mine"      (Haas, arr. B. Hayes)

**\*Offering Prayer**      ELW pg. 144

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **\*Great Thanksgiving**

**\*Dialogue**      ELW pg. 144

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **\*Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.

You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW pg. 144**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**ELW pg. 145**

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.

## Invitation to Communion

Communion Song “Lamb of God” ELW pg. 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.

## Hymns during Communion

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

ELW #515

1 Break now the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page  
I seek you, Lord;  
my spirit waits for you,  
O living Word.

2 Bless your own word of truth,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease,  
all fetters fall;  
and I shall find my peace,  
my All-in-All!

3 You are the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
your holy word the truth that rescues me.

Give me to eat and live  
with you above;  
teach me to love your truth,  
for you are love.

“Day by Day”

ELW #790

1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,  
where at last I'll find eternal rest.

2 Day by day, I know you will provide me  
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow,  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow  
till in glory I behold your face.

3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me  
when my burdens grow too great to bear;  
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me,  
you will hold me ever in your hand.  
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,  
I will reach at last the promised land.

**Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

**SENDING**

**Sending of Communion**

**Announcements**

**\*Blessing**

**\*Sending Hymn    “Let All Things Now Living”    ELW #881**

**1 Let all things now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**2 God rules all the forces:  
the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing**

our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

**\*Dismissal**

L: God provides!

All: We Serve! Thanks be to God!

(Pause for Chimes)

Postlude                    "Toccata in E Minor"                    (Johann Pachelbel)

**Faith 5 Verse for this week John 1:14:**

<sup>14</sup>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.

## SERVING TODAY

**Altar Guild** - Connie Kelher,  
Rhea Scott and Linda  
Radwick

**Acolyte**  
8:00 a.m. - Erin Stephenson  
10:45 a.m. - Kylie Burford

**Deacons/Communion  
Assistants**  
8:00 a.m. - Deacon Jane  
Strain  
10:45 a.m. - Deacon Carrisa  
Bratlien

**Greeters**  
8:00 a.m. - Frankie Appelin,  
Myrna Meyer  
10:45 a.m. - Howard and  
Shar Larsen

**Lectors**  
8:00 a.m. - Susan Wralstad  
10:45 a.m. - Leslie McCourt

**Music Director** - Jess  
Barrera

**Organist & Pianist**  
Billie Hayes, Deb Koltveit

**Partners in Praise** - Betty  
Burford, Victoria Kiser,  
Linda Perry,

**AV Technicians** - Bill Silvis,  
Larry Rewis, CJ Abraham,  
Fred March, Dave Dechant

**Ushers for Today**  
8:00 a.m. - \*Monty Brandes,  
Carol Brandes, Sylvia  
Diamond, Greg Paul  
10:45 a.m. - \*Anna Bratlien,  
Gary Peterson, Richard  
Zimmer

## **Our Mission Statement:**

“With faith in God’s grace, we share Christ’s love with all,  
so that lives are transformed by the Holy Spirit.”

Mark Perry, Pastor  
Paul Benz, Intern Pastor  
Linda Perry, Director of Faith Formation  
Larry Rewis, SELC Council President  
Cindy Allen, Administrative Assistant  
Ministers: The People of SELC

**You Are Invited again to Sunday Worship Services  
Next Week at 9:00 a.m.**

Nursery for children Birth - 4 yrs is available at both worship services. Parents are also welcome to use the Comfort Room as a private area to take your infant or young children if you would like. Located just off the Lobby.

**WELCOME TO SELC** - Please sign your name in the red fellowship pad from the pew rack in front of you. All are welcome at the communion table, regardless of denominational background or life circumstance. To learn more about what it means to be a devoted Christ-follower, and how Baptism is an essential entrance rite into that life of discipleship and service, please talk to the pastor or intern pastor. White grape juice is available as well as gluten-free wafers. Please indicate your preferences to the server.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** for the month of AUGUST can be submitted online at [www.selcaz.org](http://www.selcaz.org) or to Sunny Fichtl at [sunnyf@cox.net](mailto:sunnyf@cox.net).

**PLEASE PRAY** for the family of Randy Kidder, Virginia Wickizer, Carol Coss, Chris Brenner, Jim Andrew, Pastor Tom Dunham, Pastor of Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church, Jen, Chris Spahr, family of Kaylie (daughter of Scott Schultz), Jake, Ashley

Ricks, the Bills family, and for the friends of Doris Hayutin. Please continue to pray for Anne Peterson, Gary Graham, Paul Gregory, Sully Mix, the family of Dotti Stotts, Bruce Morris, Johnnie Rae Latham, Juergen and his family, for Phil's family, for the residents of Southern California, Helen Perdiue, Lynn's family, Jenna (Perry) Knauss, Tony Toto, Jan and Don Huthoefer, Bob Reiner, Grady Taylor, Phil, Sue Mount, Rob, George Abraham, Jane Behsman, Dolly Bessler, Jan Beverlin, Dee Brenner, Clayton, Kriss Larsen, Helen Lecomte, Mahkyla, Carol Moses, the Nowaks, Shawn Nowrey, Pete and Dee Pederson, Caroline Pentecost, Jerry Regan, Roger and Dee Rowley, Virginia Studer, Pam Williams and military personnel everywhere.

**CONTINUOUS COMMUNION AT 8 AM** - Just a friendly “heads up,” that, for three Sundays starting 9/1/19, our Worship and Music committee decided we would experiment with a “continuous communion” practice at the 8 am worship service. That means instead of receiving a spoken blessing after each side of the altar rail has received communion before going back to the pews, we will have ONE blessing for everyone at the conclusion of communion. After you have received the bread and wine or a blessing you simply leave the altar rail to return to your seat when you feel ready to do so. We are One Body of Christ and communion is a beautiful way of showing that. This is one way to experience that reality. We’ll evaluate this practice in three weeks. Your comments are welcomed at that time.

### **HYMN SING SUNDAY**

**September 8 at 9:00 am with ONE Worship Service**

Join us next week for a wonderful worship service of song, including Holy Communion. A special dedication prayer time will happen during the service for the new grand piano, lovingly donated by Jim Thompson in memory and honor of his wife, Darlene. Please Note: There will be NO Faith Formation Classes this week. Classes will resume on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>!

**SELC CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th** starting at 12 Noon at Len Roberts Park, 101 E. Theater Dr. Join us for a great day of fun and fellowship! Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Lemonade, iced tea and water will be provided. There will be ice cream too! We will have use of the whole park for the picnic and the water feature (don't forget to bring towel and dry clothes.) There will be games such as corn hole, kick ball and water balloon toss with prizes for the winners. For more information contact Deanna Sanner 803-0576 or Sandy Urlie-Hall 895-8376. **Don't forget to bring your lawn chair.'**

**CHOIR REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN! THURSDAY'S, at 7pm.** (*Note day change.*) Been in choir already? Thinking you'd like to come sing with us? Come and check us out, we are looking forward to a great year ahead. We meet in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please email Jess Barrera at [jbarrera2277@pointloma.edu](mailto:jbarrera2277@pointloma.edu), or call the church office at 520-459-0444. **It's not to late to join us!**

**JOINT YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT! KRAZY KRITTERS/KIDS HELPING KIDS - SEPTEMBER 14** - All Jr. & Sr. High Youth are to meet at in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to carpool over with youth from SVUMC, St. Stephen's Episcopal & United Church of Christ to help out at the Krazy Kritters Goat Sanctuary. We will work until 11:30 a.m. then come back to the Fellowship Hall for pizza, salad and watermelon and to share about our experience, then we will head to Pueblo Del Sol for fun time in the pool together! If you have questions or need more information, contact Linda Perry at [dff@selcaz.org](mailto:dff@selcaz.org) and be sure to sign up with her so we can arrange transportation! This will be a very special and unique service project and a great way to get to know other youth in our community!

**DATE NIGHT CANDLELIGHT DINNER FUNDRAISER - September 29 - 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!** Come and enjoy a delicious pasta dinner prepared and served by our SELC Jr./Sr. High Youth. This is an invitation to a fine dining experience for **ADULTS ONLY** complete with a delectable dessert, soft candlelight, lovely background music and impeccable service! Gluten free and vegetarian options are available upon request. This is a special fundraiser for camp, retreat scholarships and the upcoming ELCA Gathering in St. Paul, MN in 2021! A freewill donation will be collected at the dinner. **Reservations required by September 22** between services on the patio or by calling the church office at 459-0444.

**SERMON SERIES** - This month will feature a sermon series on “What is Truth?” or, “Where Now is the Authority?” in an attempt to provide guidance for discerning what really belongs to The Truth. Tools and resources will be shared about how we can better discern which voices are authentic in following God’s values using the classic four categories of determining authority according to Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience. Today’s theme is “Scripture.” **Copies of Pastor Mark’s notes for each sermon are available to pick up in the Narthex.** If you are unable to make it to church or would like to hear a sermon again, you also can go to our website to access services online.

**LSS -SW TUCSON** has 19 refugees coming within the next weeks and they need our help. These are families where either the MOM or a CHILD is at risk and need immediate attention. We will be sponsoring a kitchen/Bath "shower" to help furnish an apartment. Bath needs: towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, bath mats etc. Kitchen needs: non perishable food, pots and pans, dishes, cups, glassware, silverware etc and monetary donations with your checks made out to SELC - refugee program. For more information contact Gail Hamp or Linda Radwick. A box is in the Narthex.

**The Altar Candles** are donated by Faye and Tony Toto in thanks for the blessings HE has given them and from the 2019 Easter Love Offering.

**Both the Flower Vases** are donated by Bob and Norma Jones in thanks for a long-married life together.

**Flowers Provided by** Ro and Hal Decker celebrating their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on September 7 and by Ruth Britton In honor of Family Birthdays.

**Oil for The Eternal Light Provided to the Glory of God.**

## CALENDAR 9/1/19 - 9/8/19

SUN 9/1	8:00 & 10:45 AM	Worship Services / In-Home Communion
	9:30 AM	Faith Formation for ALL Ages
MON 9/2		Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day
TUE 9/3	7:45 AM	Exercise Group
	6:30 PM	Faith Formation Team Meeting - Room #4
	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall Reserved
WED 9/4	9:00 AM	Bible Study - Music Room
THUR 9/5	7:45 AM	Exercise Group
	9:00 AM	Worship & Music Meeting - Music Room
	9:00 AM	Stitch-In-Time Quilters - Fellowship Hall
	12:30 PM	LIFT - Sr. High Youth Room
	2:30 PM	Confirmation - Jr. High Youth Room
	4:30 PM	Partner's in Praise Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Plus Square Dancers
FRI 9/6	1:00 PM	Senior Games - Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	Square Dancing - Fellowship Hall
SAT 9/7	7:00 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
SUN 9/8	9:00 AM	Hymn Fest Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Church Potluck Picnic - Len Roberts Park

**Food Donations for Next Sunday Will Go to Peaches Pantry.**

