

## **Session Six:** **Truth is Morally Central to Our Personal and Public Lives**

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord, you tell us that you are the way, the truth and the life. Guide us in heart, soul, strength and mind to follow the way, the truth, and the life you have set before each of us. Amen.

### **I Am the Way**

<sup>1</sup>Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going. <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

### **Reflection:**

- What stood out for you in this reading?
- For you, what does it mean that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life?
- How do you seek and tell the truth in our world today?

### **Truth is Morally Central to Our Personal and Public Lives**

**WE BELIEVE** that truth is morally central to our personal and public lives. Truth-telling is central to the prophetic biblical tradition, whose vocation includes speaking the Word of God into their societies and speaking the truth to power. A commitment to speaking truth, the ninth commandment of the Decalogue, "You shall not bear false witness" (Exodus 20:16), is foundational to shared trust in society. Falsehood can enslave us, but Jesus promises, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32). The search and respect for truth is crucial to anyone who follows Christ.

**THEREFORE, WE REJECT** the practice and pattern of lying that is invading our political and civil life. Politicians, like the rest of us, are human, fallible, sinful, and mortal. But when public lying becomes so persistent that it deliberately tries to change facts for ideological, political, or personal gain, the public accountability to truth is undermined. The regular purveying of falsehoods and consistent lying by the nation's highest leaders can change the moral expectations within a culture, the accountability for a civil society, and even the behavior of families and children. The normalization of lying presents a profound moral danger to the fabric of society. In the face of lies that bring darkness, Jesus is our truth and our light.

### **Closing Prayer**

Gracious and holy God,  
Give us wisdom to perceive you  
Diligence to seek you,  
Patience to wait for you,  
Eyes to behold you, and life to proclaim you;  
Through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

*- St Benedict*