

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave
O'Fallon, IL
(618) 632-0126
www.mybslc.org
Worship –9:30 am.

Pastor Tony Troup (618-340-8375), Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Perry Schefelker (618-322-7498), Vacancy Pastor
Akoh Daniel Kofi, Lector
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45am

The Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Today we hear the apostle Paul proclaim something rather odd: rejoice in our sufferings. Paul says this because—as he tells us—endurance, endurance produces character, character produces does not put us to shame because our hope is in Jesus who died and our reconciliation and peace. THAT is something to rejoice



that we can
suffering produces
hope, and hope
and is risen for us
in!

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN: LSB 727 "On Eagle's Wings"

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge, my Rock in whom I trust.

Refrain: And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. (Refrain)

You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come. (Refrain)

For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot upon a stone. (Refrain)

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Our Lenten journey continues toward the cross.

People: It is a journey marked with suffering,

Pastor: but suffering produces endurance.

People: Endurance produces character.

Pastor: Character produces hope,

People: and hope in Christ does not put us to shame.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our hope in Christ is strong and living, yet we have often taken for granted the profound reality of Christ's death for us. We have ignored how weak and ungodly we have been. Still, our heavenly Father gives us access to His throne of grace, to ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have not rejoiced in suffering. We have sometimes acted shamefully. And we have even given up sometimes. Have mercy on us, and bring us back to You, so that we may rejoice once more, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: At just the right time...in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven and at peace with God.

SHARING THE PEACE

INTROIT *Psalm 115:11–13, 18; antiphon: Psalm 25:6*

P: You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

C: **The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;**

P: he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.

C: **But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

All: Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your perfect timing, You died for us who are weak and ungodly. Be present with us as we endure the sufferings of this world, so that we may learn how suffering leads to endurance, character, and a hope that never puts us to shame; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16* (God renames Abram as Abraham.)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 5:1–11* (Christ died for the ungodly.)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Mark 8:34b*

Pastor: If anyone would come after Me,

People: **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 8:27–38* (Jesus is the Christ who must suffer, die, and rise again.) (Please rise for the Gospel.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (Please be seated.)

HYMN: LSB 688 “Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake”

**"Come, follow me," the Savior spake,
"All in my way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake,
Obey My call and guiding.
O, bear the cross, whate'er betide,
Take My example for your guide.**

**"I am the light; I light the way,
A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day;
I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show
How you must sojourn here below.**

**"My heart abounds in lowliness;
My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express,
With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all
To God I yield; on Him I call.**

**"I teach you how to shun and flee
What harms your soul's salvation;**

Your heart from ev'ry guile to free,
From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul
And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,
And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word,
In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

SERMON "The Call for Cross-Bearing," Mark 8:34-35 Rev. Perry Schefelker

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLE'S CREED *(Please stand.)*

ALL I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Christian Church, The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen
(Please be seated after The Creed.)

OFFERING *(Organ offertory.)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Response after each petition: P: Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Final Response: P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting
in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: Amen.

All: 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.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD

P: May the Lord go before you to prepare your way, behind you to encourage you, above you to watch over you, below you to be your firm foundation, beside you to befriend you, and within you to give you His peace.

C: **Amen.** *(Please stand for our closing hymn.)*

HYMN: LSB 685 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" (1,2,4)

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**