

## 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

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

#### AS WE GATHER

Easter makes a difference in the lives of people! It made a difference in the lives of the early believers and it makes a difference in our lives. It makes a difference in our lives because of the power of the Holy Spirit living in us. It makes a difference because we believe Jesus is the Son of God. It makes a difference because faith triumphs over sight. And lastly, it makes a difference because Jesus' word of peace replaces fear of God's judgment.



#### INVOCATION

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

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:5:10; 2:1b-2*

P: This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

C: **But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

P: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

C: **Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

#### SHARING THE PEACE

**HYMN OF PRAISE**    #480    “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

**He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death’s prison, the incarnate, true Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

**The foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones feared.**

**But short was their triumph, the Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes;  
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high.  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.**

**Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.  
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.**

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain;  
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.**

**SALUTATION**

**P:**            The Lord be with you.  
**C:**            **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:**            Let us pray.  
                 Almighty God, may our Easter faith not only be a matter of Sunday worship,  
**C:**            **but how we care for one another and share our joy in love and service each day;**

**P:**            through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
                 now and forever.  
**C**            **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**    *Acts 4:32–35* (Believers use everything they have to help one another.)

The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

P: Christ has risen from the dead.  
C: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;  
C: **He has put all things under His feet.**

**EPISTLE** *1 John 1:1—2:2* (God is light; He forgives our sins.)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b (Please rise for the Alleluia Verses and Gospel.)*

P: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.  
C: **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 20:19–31* (Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.  
C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, We have seen the Lord. But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *LSB 470, Sts. 1-5*      "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

**O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!**

**That Easter morn, at break of day,  
The faithful women went their way  
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**An angel clad in white they see,  
Who sit and speaks unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**That night the apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**When Thomas first the tidings heard  
That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**SERMON**    "Easter's Echo: the Victory of Faith," John 20:29      Rev. Perry Schefelker

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *LSB 470, Sts. 6-9*      "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

**"My pierced side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voice raise.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**CREED**      *The Nicene Creed. (Please rise.)*

**ALL:**        I believe in one God,  
                  the Father Almighty,  
                  maker of heaven and earth  
                  and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## OFFERING

*(Please be seated for the offering.)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### SELF-EXAMINATION

P: The Apostle Paul encourages us to examine ourselves in the light of God's law so that we may see our sin and recognize our need of a Savior. We take a moment to reflect on this need and then to ask ourselves the following questions:

1. Are you baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you know you are a sinner in need of God's grace?
3. Do you believe Jesus died to atone for your sins?
4. Do you believe that God offers His forgiveness through the "real" presence of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine?
5. Do you seek to amend your sinful life?

### PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is good and right that we should always and everywhere thank and praise You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly do we praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord, who not only rose from death but has led the way for us to be with You forever. And so, with all the heavenly host, we raise our voices in thanks, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS "Holy, Holy, Holy," LSB P: 161

**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.**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You did not spare Your only Son but gave Him into death that we might have life. Though we cannot understand Your love or comprehend

eternity, we lift our voices in thanksgiving and pray for You to strengthen us through this Sacrament to serve as Your witnesses.

**C:** **May everyone who hears and sees our daily living and our love for You and the people around us recognize the difference in our lives due to Jesus' victory over death and the grave.**

**P:** Gathered in Jesus' name, we pray that You would forgive, renew, and strengthen us. Gather us with all who are faithful so that together we may join the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glory, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**P:** Our Lord Jesus Christ...

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

## **PAX DOMINI**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **AGNUS DEI** "Lamb of God," LSB P. 161

**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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

Easter Video

#818 "In Thee Is Gladness"

**In Thee is gladness  
Amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given  
The gifts of heaven,**

Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest,  
Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trusts Thee surely  
Has built securely;  
He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining  
To see Thy shining,  
Dying or living  
To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours,  
We fear no powers,  
Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses  
In worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story  
Tell of His glory  
With hearts and voices;  
All heav'n rejoices  
In Him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness,  
Triumph o'er sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him  
And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** "Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise," LSB P. 164

Thank the Lord and sing His praise;  
Tell everyone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

- P: Let us pray.  
We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament.
- C: **We pray that You would strengthen us by it each day to use all that we are and have to the good of others and the praise of Your holy name;**
- P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**



**BENEDICTION**     *Numbers 6:24–26*

P:            The Lord bless you and keep you.  
               The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
               The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
C:            **Amen.** (*Please rise for our closing hymn.*)

**CLOSING HYMN**    #461 “I Know that My Redeemer Lives,” Sts. 1-4, 8

**I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever living head!**

**He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.**

**He lives to bless me with His love;  
He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.**

**He lives to grant me rich supply;  
He lives to guide me with His eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint;  
He lives to hear my soul’s complaint.**

**He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence give:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

**SENDING**

P:            Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
C:            **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P:            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
C:            **Thanks be to God!**