

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: 10:45 am

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 12, 2024

AS WE GATHER

The Easter season finds its culmination in the high priestly prayer of Jesus. With this we are reminded that the Lord is praying for us, for our faith, and for our unity in the faith, so that we may fulfill His purpose in making known all that He has done. As we confront the mission of the church to be His witnesses still, He does not relent praying for us still. United in faith and living together our common life under His Word and at His Table, we are strengthened in unity and in mission.



ENTRANCE HYMN NO. 564

“Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand”

**Christ sits at God’s right hand,,
His saving work complete,
To reign till ev’ry foe will lie
Beneath His feet
All that the Father planned,
The Son sought to fulfill,
When first He said,
“Lord, here am I
To do Your will.”**

**Christ was that priest God swore,
Uniquely First and Last,
Who would in righteousness and love
Be unsurpassed:
“A priest forevermore,”
An oath God would not break,
“A priest within the order of Melchizedek.”**

**Christ’s altar was the tree,
Where on the world’s behalf
He shed a blood, unlike the blood
Of goat or calf,
To seal God’s guarantee
Of grace that cannot fail;
With blood He entered for our good
Behind the veil.**

What costly sacrifice
To cover human sin!
Who but Christ Jesus had the right
To enter in?
His blood, that sprinkled price,
So we might be assured
That our inheritance in light
Has been secured.

Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus' blood.
From hearts that are sincere.
Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God's faithful grace
That we confess.

All praise to Christ we bring.
Our Lord who intercedes,
Our great High Priest enthroned above
Who knows our needs;
And to the Father sing
Our songs of thankful praise,
Who with the Spirit reigns in love
For endless days.

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Let us come before God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden and confess our sins in the name of Him who died and rose again to give us forgiveness and life.

Silence for meditation and reflection

C: I confess that I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayer have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are many whom I have hurt and many whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I have sinned against God and against you, my brothers and sisters. There is no health in me. But for the promise of Christ, I would have no hope. Because of Christ's promise, I am made bold to ask for mercy. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, O Lord, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P:: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us extend the hand of reconciliation and peace to one another.

People: **Peace be with you.**

Response: *And also with you.*

INTROIT Psalm 27:1a, 4–5, 10, 14; antiphon: v. 7

P: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

C: **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

P: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

C: **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.**

P: For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;

C: **He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock**

P: For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

C: **but the LORD will take me in.**

P: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father, You have given us Your Word and with it Your Spirit, that by the testimony of the prophets and evangelists, we may know the truth that sets us free from sin and fear. Guard Your Word within us, that by this faithful testimony we may be made bold in witness and faithful in service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 1:12–26 (The Lord chooses Matthias to fill the empty spot among the Twelve created by Judas' death.)

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, *Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.* (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) *For it is written in the Book of Psalms, **May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it*; and **Let another take his office.*

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us*one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.* And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, *You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.* And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE 1 John 5:9–15 (“Whoever has the Son has life.”)

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL adapted. 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.

(Please rise for the Alleluia Verse, Gospel Reading, and Creed.)

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 14:23*

P: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C: Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL John 17:11b–19 (Jesus prays that we may be one as He and the Father are one.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**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.)*

HYMN No 647

“Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s head,
You are her one foundation;
In You she trusts, before You bows,
And waits for Your salvation.
Built on this rock secure,
Your Church shall endure
Though all the world decay
And all things pass away.
Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Jesus!

O Lord, let this Your little flock,
Your name alone confessing,
Continue in Your loving care,
True unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord,
And Your saving Word
To us, Lord, pure retain.
Grant that they may remain
Our only strength and comfort.

Help us to serve You evermore
With hearts both pure and lowly;
And may Your Word, that light divine,
Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show,
In faith ever grow;
The pow’r of sin destroy
And evils that annoy.
O, make us faithful Christians.

And for Your Gospel let us dare
To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear Your blessed cross,
To find in You all pleasure.
O, grant us steadfastness
In joy and distress,
Lest we, Lord, you forsake.
Let us by grace partake
Of endless joy and gladness.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: In Your great mercy, O Lord, You have accomplished all things for our salvation and bore upon Your Son the cost of our redemption. Deliver us from doubt and fear that we may know with courage the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen and be made bold to confess this truth before the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In Your mercy You sustained Your church in the time of waiting for the promise of the Spirit to be fulfilled. Sustain us in our wait for the completion of all that Christ began by His death and resurrection that we not grow weary of trusting You nor betray the hope You planted in us in our Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Guide Your church, O Lord, that we be united in faith and proclaim with one voice Him whose death, resurrection, and ascension have delivered us from sin and its death. Make us of one mind and one heart that we serve our neighbor with joy to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Be with those of our parish family and friends who enjoy birthdays and anniversaries this week, including Kim Williams and Steve Foster Foster and Roger and Phyllis Miesner's anniversary. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Guide Pastor Bill Geis as he considers our call to leave his current position in the Missouri District Office of the LCMS as "Director of Mission Services" to become pastor of Blessed Savior Lutheran Church. We pray that you would make it clear to him what is Your will for both him and our congregation. If it be Your will, let him accept our call to become pastor here. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our call.

P: Deliver us from war and violence, and bless us with good and honest leaders who will hear the voice of Your Word and act on our behalf that we may live holy, upright, and godly lives in this place. Bless those who protect us here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In the midst of temptation, make us strong, and in the midst of trials help us endure with patience and conviction the days of trouble. Bless especially those who suffer illness or infirmity, grief, or pain, including Marcie Monaco and Audrey Alvarado. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Keep Your church and the work of the Kingdom ever before us that we may daily pray to the Father even as our Lord continues to intercede on our behalf. Uplift us in hope that what we pray for we may be willing to work toward, until that day when all our enemies and trials shall end and we shall be united with the saints who went before us, once and forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need we pray You to grant us for the sake of and in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

THE BENEDICTION

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.

CLOSING HYMN NO 701 "Draw Us to Thee" (*Please rise.*)

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on Where Thou art gone
To be with Thee, dear Savior.

Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness
That we may be Forever free
From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to Thee; O grant that we
May walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way Lest we should stray
And from Thy paths be driven.

Draw us to Thee That also we
Thy heav'nly bliss inherit
And ever dwell Where sin and hell
No more can vex our spirit.

**Draw us to Thee Unceasingly,
Into Thy kingdom take us;
Let us fore'er Thy glory share,
Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

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!**