

**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  
Brett Arrasmith, Field Worker  
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist  
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45am

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 30, 2025

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN** Video “Jesus Strong and Kind” CityAlight

**INVOCATION**

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



**OPENING SENTENCES** *Isaiah 12:2*

P: Behold, God is my salvation;  
C: **I will trust, and will not be afraid;**  
P: for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,  
C: **and He has become my salvation.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 96:2*

P: Beloved in the Lord, Paul reassures us, saying, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability.” Let us with confidence and gladness enter God’s presence, confessing our sins and receiving His grace, assurance, and forgiveness.  
C: **Lord God, we are exceedingly glad to enter Your house this day, for we have heard and believe in the invitation of Your loving kindness and redemption through Jesus Christ, Your Son. In the trust and hope of the faith You have given us as Your baptized children, we confess to You all our sins and failures to share Your gifts of mercy with others. Grant us the forgiveness for which we ask and give us a renewed heart and spirit to sing Your praises in worship of You and to the joy of all.**

P: “Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.” Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1* [See Music Index]

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**C: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

**C: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

P: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward | being, and You teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.

**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.**

**ALL: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

## SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 12:1–6* (“The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.”)

You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:16–21* (A new creation)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled

to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Luke 15:22a, 24a*

P: The father said to his servants,

C: **“This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32* (The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.” And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

But the father said to his servants, “Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.” But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes; you killed the fattened calf for him!” And he said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.””

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN No. 571** "God Loved the World So That He Gave" (vs 1-4)

God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood;  
Your Baptism, grants the highest good.

**SERMON**

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

Seminarian Brett Arrasmith

**CREED**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED** *stand*

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.

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.  
You are God; we praise You.

**C: You are the Lord; we acclaim You,**

P: You are the eternal Father;  
**C all creation worships You.**

P To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise.  
**C The glorious company of apostles praise You.**

P: The noble fellowship of prophets praise You.  
**C The white-robed army of martyrs praise You.**

P You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.  
**C You became man to set us free,**

P You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
**C You are seated at God's right hand in glory.**

P Lord God, we pray for Your whole church on earth. Grant that Your life-giving, life-sustaining Word be rightly proclaimed and firmly believed, that many may come to repentance and faith and the eternal life of Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C hear our prayer.**

P For Your whole creation, we praise and glorify You, almighty God. Let Your blessing be upon seedtime and harvest, commerce and industry, and all the realm of our life together as a nation. Preserve us, O Lord, in justice and honor that we may live in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C hear our prayer.**

P: For all who are in any need, the sick, the hospitalized, the homebound; for the lonely and abandoned; for the oppressed and the afflicted, come to all with healing, hope, and restoration of freedom and health. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C hear our prayer.**

*Other intercessions may be added here.*

P: Throughout the world the holy church acclaim You:  
**C: Father, of majesty unbounded;**

P: Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship;  
**C: and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

**C: Come, then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your own blood,  
P: and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13*

**People: 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.

**BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor:      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.  
People:      **Amen.**

**HYMN NO 803.**      “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,  
Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit!  
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

**SENDING**

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