

## **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

Cheryl Vohlken, Organist  
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45am

### **THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**September 14, 2025**

#### **AS WE GATHER**

The charge against Jesus was always the same—He keeps the wrong company. But Jesus has come for sinners, and if you are not a sinner, He does not have anything for you. To emphasize why He has come, our Lord tells the stories of ninety-nine sheep left behind to find one who is lost and a woman who rejoices over finding one lost coin. You are that lost sheep and lost coin for whom Christ has come and in whom heaven rejoices. Jesus has come for you and for you He has offered Himself upon the cross and been laid in the tomb. This is the heavenly joy of the angels above, and it is our earthly joy as well. Christ came for us!



#### **OPENING HYMN (Video) “Ancient Word”**

**Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;  
They resound with God's own heart, O, let the ancient words impart;**

**Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;  
In this world where'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us home.**

**Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart.**

**Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,  
Came to us through sacrifice; O, heed the faithful words of Christ;**

**Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;  
They resound with God's own heart; O, let the ancient words impart.**

**Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart.**

**Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart. X3**

**We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart.**

#### **INVOCATION**

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: O Lord, my God, I cry to You for help.

C: **Heal and restore me, O Lord.**

P: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: **like sheep, O Lord, we have strayed and wandered from You. We have sinned against You and one another. We have done the evil You forbid, and we have not done the good You desire. There is no health in us. O merciful and divine Shepherd, cover our sins with Your forgiveness, clothe us with Your perfect righteousness, and preserve us in this faith and fear, that we may be kept to the day when Your Son comes to judge all people. Have mercy, O Lord, and fulfill Your Word to us in Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

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

C: **Amen.**

P: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. His peace be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## SHARING THE PEACE

**PSALM** *Psalms 119:169–176* (We have gone astray like a lost sheep.)

**All: I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight.**

P: Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word! Let my plea come before You; rescue me according to Your word.

C: **My lips will pour forth praise, for You teach me Your statutes.  
My tongue will sing of Your word, for all Your commandments are right.**

P: Let Your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts.  
I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight.

C: **Let my soul live and praise You, and let Your just decrees help me.  
I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.**

**All: 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.**

## GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, without Your help, we are not able to please You. Give us Your Holy Spirit to direct and govern our hearts; 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** Ezekiel 34:11–24 (The Lord promises to rescue His sheep and to set up a shepherd who will lead them to eternal life.)

<sup>11</sup> “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

<sup>17</sup> “As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup> Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet?

<sup>19</sup> And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

<sup>20</sup> “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup> Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup> I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup> And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE READING** 1 Tim. 1:12–17 (Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.)

<sup>12</sup> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup> though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**VERSE** Luke 15:10

**L:** Alleluia. I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God  
**C:** **over one sinner who repents. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 15:1–10 (Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.)  
(Please stand.)

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter  
**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, <sup>a</sup> if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

(After the reading)

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C:** **Praise to You, O Christ.** (Please be seated.)

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS**

Third graders being presented a Bible today: Madison Emmons, Kaitlyn Emmons, Zach Kinsella, Xander Vamboi, and Charlie Morton

**HYMN OF THE DAY No. 589** “Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”

**Speak, O Lord, your servant listens,  
Let your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death’s dread power, its inward strife,  
Wars against your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love’s strong fervor  
That I cling to You forever!**

**Oh, what blessing to be near You  
And to listen to Your voice;**

Let me ever love and hear You,  
Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
Flee in terror at Your Word,  
But to all who feel sin's burden,  
You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living,  
When my thirsting spirit pleads;  
Lord, Your words are bread life giving,  
On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing,  
And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
Let Your words in me take root;  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me  
That I bear abundant fruit:  
May I daily sing Your praise,  
From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given  
In the endless joy of heaven.

**SERMON** "What Does It Mean to Draw Near to Jesus?" Luke 15:1-2  
Rev. Perry Schefelker

**CREED** The Apostle's *Creed*. (*Please rise.*)

**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

**OFFERING** (*Please be seated for the offering.*)

**HYMN: No. 817** "Earth and All Stars!" (vs. 1,5,6,7) (sung during offering)

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Oh, victory!  
Loud shouting army!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Refrain:  
He has done marvelous things.  
I too will praise Him with a new song!

Classrooms and labs!  
Loud boiling test tubes!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band!  
Loud cheering people!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Knowledge and truth!  
Loud sounding wisdom!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son!  
Loud praying members!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Children of God,  
Dying and rising,  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Heaven and earth,  
Hosts everlasting,  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

## **INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND OFFICERS**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**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;  
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:** The blessing of God, our Creator heavenly Father; His loving Son, our Savior and Leader, Jesus; and God's counseling and comforting Holy Spirit, be with each of you, now and forever.

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

## **CLOSING HYMN** (Video) "Thy Word"

**Chorus:**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**

**When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
Still You're there right beside me  
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near,  
Please be near me to the end. (Chorus)**

**I will not forget Your love for me, and yet,  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side  
And I will love You to the end. (Chorus)**

W&M by Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith

c.1971 Maranatha! Music CCLI 691913

## **THE SENDING**

**P:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**