

**Blessed Savior Lutheran Church**

1205 North Lincoln Ave  
O'Fallon, IL 62269 (618) 632-0126  
www.mybslc.org  
Worship –9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45am

Rev. Dr. Nathan Kuhlman, Pastor  
573-612-9090 pastorkuhlman@gmail.com  
Cody Krueger, Seminary Field Worker  
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist

**Zechariah**

*“Rebuilding hope in a troubled world”*

**Good Friday - April 3, 2026 - Part 9**

*“God is Dead!” - Zechariah 12:10-14*

**WELCOME**

**SHARING GOD’S PEACE**

**INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Zechariah 9:9–10)

**P:** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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

**P:** Behold, your King comes to you—

**C:** **Righteous and having salvation.**

**P:** Speaking peace to the nations.

**C:** **And ruling from sea to sea—**

**P:** To the ends of the earth!

**C:** **God’s kingdom comes—**

**P:** To us!

**C:** **Through Jesus Christ our Lord!**



**HYMN LSB 427** “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (VS 1-3)

**In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o’ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to reverently behold the agony of your rejection, the pain of your condemnation, and the horror of your crucifixion.

**C: Bring us to the places you walked and to the people you encountered on that Friday so long ago.**

P: Stay with us, Lord, as we witness your suffering and listen to your last words of love.

**C: As we approach the cross let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against your holy commandments.**

P: Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from you in our thinking, speaking and doing.

**C: We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.**

P: We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.

**C: O God, we have tried to hide from you and from one another.**

P: We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us and the failed relationships that haunt us.

**C: We cannot plead the strength of our temptations or the frailty of our nature or place the blame on other people.**

P: We can only say, "For the sake of Jesus, God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

*(You are invited to silently reflect on the fact that  
though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)*

P: By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God's kingdom comes to us.

**C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## HYMN LSB 427 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (VS 4)

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.**

## TENEBRAE LESSONS & HYMNS

*With each reading, a candle is extinguished with the singing of the hymn*

### LESSON 1 Matthew 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

**HYMN LSB 547** "The Lamb" (VS 3-4)

**The Lamb, the Lamb,  
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, His will  
On our behalf the Law to fill.  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!  
He sighs, he dies,  
He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives,  
He gives me His own righteousness.  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**LESSON 2** Matthew 26:62-68; John 19:14-16

And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

**HYMN LSB 451** "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (VS 1-2)

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
See him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
He's the long expected prophet,  
David's son, yet David's Lord.  
Proofs I see sufficient of it:  
He's the true and faithful Word.**

**Tell me, all who hear him groaning,  
Was there ever grief like this?  
Friends through fear his cause disowning,  
Foes insulting his distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound him,  
None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced him  
Was the stroke that justice gave.**

### **LESSON 3**    John 19:17-18

and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

#### **HYMN LSB 450**            “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”    (VS 1,3)

**O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thine only crown.  
O sacred Head, what glory  
What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call Thee mine!**

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
Was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor,  
And grant to me Thy grace.**

### **LESSON 4**    Luke 23:33-43

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

#### **HYMN LSB 425**            “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”    (VS 1,4)

**When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

**LESSON 5**

John 19:23-24

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

*"They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."*

So the soldiers did these things,

**HYMN LSB 456** "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? (VS1-2)

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?**

**LESSON 6**

Mark 15:25-39

And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

**HYMN LSB 447** (VS 1, 19-20)

**Jesus, in your dying woes,  
 Even while Your lifeblood flows,  
 Craving pardon for Your foes:  
 Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Jesus, all Your labor vast,  
 All Your woe and conflict past,  
 Yielding up Your soul at last:  
 Hear us, holy Jesus.**

When the death shades round us low'r,  
Guard us from the tempter's pow'r,  
Keep us in that trial hour:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.

**MESSAGE** "God is Dead!" - Zechariah 12:10-14 Pastor Nathan

**HYMN LSB 878** "Abide with Me" (VS 1-2)

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens;  
Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

**LESSON 7** Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross (various readings)

**WORD 1**

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."  
(*Luke 23:34*)

**WORD 2**

I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (*Luke 29:43*)

**WORD 3**

He said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple,  
"Here is your mother." (*John 19:26-27*)

**WORD 4**

Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?  
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"  
(*Matthew 27:46*)

**WORD 5**

I am thirsty." (*John 19:28*)

**WORD 6**

"It is finished." (*John 19:30*)

**WORD 7**

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (*Luke 23:46*)

## CLOSING THE BOOK - CHRIST CANDLE REMOVED

### WE PRESENT OUR SINS AT THE CROSS

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

### CLOSING HYMN LSB 971 "There is a Redeemer"

**There is a Redeemer  
Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One. Refrain**

**Refrain  
Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit  
Till the work on earth is done.**

*The Congregation leaves in silence.*

