

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave
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www.mybslc.org
Worship –9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45am

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#(un)filtered

“Following Jesus in a selfie world”

Sunday May 3, 2026 - Part 4

“#authenticity” (revealing) - 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C: Amen.

P: Today, we lay down our filters and take off our masks.

C: We stand before You, God, exactly as we are.

P: With unveiled faces, we behold Your glory and are being transformed.

C: Grant us the courage to be real, for Your Truth sets us free.

P: It's time to stop scrolling and start living.

C: To discover the beauty of God's unfiltered grace.



OPENING HYMN “King of Kings” (Worship Initiative) - Video

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: God of Truth, we confess that we wear masks to earn the approval of others. We are afraid that if people saw the unfiltered version of us, they wouldn't stay. Forgive us for our hypocrisy. Help us to live with unveiled faces, trusting that we are already fully known and fully loved by You.

C: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!

P: Come near to me and hear my cries through Jesus:

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

P: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The veil is torn, and you are seen and loved with an everlasting love.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: God's unfiltered grace pours over you completely, fully, mercifully. The masks come off. The scrolling stops. From a cross and a tomb, the Lord's extravagant grace flows into your broken heart, filling you to the

brim, as He gives you a new identity and new hope. Hear the good news! Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, your sins are forgiven,

C: "As far as the east is from the west!" (Ps 103:12) Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God of Truth, who beholds us with unveiled face: Strip away the filters and masks we use to hide from You and from one another. By Your Holy Spirit, transform us into Your likeness, that we may walk in the freedom of being fully known and fully loved. Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING 2 Corinthians 12:3-18

And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all

the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works. For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit. Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 18:9-14

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN "Just As I Am" (Worship Initiative) - Video

SERMON "#authenticity" (revealing) - 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 Pastor Nathan

CREED *Nicene Creed (Please stand)*

**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 "You Say" (The War Within) – Video

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

✕ SACRAMENT ✕

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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SANCTUS *(LSB page 178, sung)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might;
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your

resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

AGNUS DEI *(LSB page 180, sung)*

**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.
grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION

“Beautiful Things” (North Point Live) – Video
“See This Wonder in the Making” (593)

**See this wonder in the making
God Himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in His keeping,
His to be, awake or sleeping.**

**Miracle each time it happens
As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, “Beloved,
Heir of gifts a king would covet!”**

**Far more tender than a mother,
Far more caring than a father,
God into Your arms we place them,
With Your love and peace embrace them.**

**Here we bring a child of nature;
Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter,
Born again by Word and water.**

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" (702)

**My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine,
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!**

**May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm and changeless be,
A living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrows' tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(LSB page 181, sung)

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done.
Let everyone who seeks 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 thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,

C: and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;

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

CLOSING HYMN “Glorious Day” (Passion)

SENDING

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

C: Thanks be to God!

“God, be
MERCIFUL
to me,
a sinner!”

Luke 18:13, NRSV

