

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH, TEMPE

SENT BY OUR GOD & SAVIOR: A SERIES FOR LENT

March 9th, 2022

12:00p.m. & 7:00p.m.



Week:1: Sent Out to Pick Up Our Cross and Follow

AS WE GATHER:

This Lent we focus in on the mission of Jesus, our Savior. The mission, given from his father, to leave the throne of God and be born among us to save us. As he healed, as he taught, as he proclaimed the kingdom of God, he called disciples and followers saying, "Follow me." That following is not easy. As he called us, as he loves us, Christ also sends us. He sends us out like sheep among wolves. He tells us to be as shrewd as serpents but as innocent as doves. In other words, be aware of the world around you, but be above reproach. We often fail to do this, all of this. We fail at following, and we fail to hear his instructions to "Go, and as you are going make disciples of all nations." That's why this lent we see the Cross as the Mission of God and the purpose of our Savior. Jesus is sent to live and die so we might have life. He serves us in his death and resurrection and he wants us to serve others too. He sends us out as well, to die to ourselves and our own sinful desires, and live for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel. As we focus this lent on Christ calling and ours, may we see that we have been called, that we are loved, and that we are Sent Out by our God and Savior.

Prelude:

“My Prayer Is To Thee” -Dennis Eliot

Welcome:

The Opening Prayer:

P: Loving God, You call us to turn away from our own selfish interests, to take up our cross, and to follow after You, to find our lives by giving them up to Your greater purpose. So, we come before You with open hearts and open hands, eager to hear Your Word, and eager to know Your will. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, move within us and among us as we worship. Open our eyes to Your presence; open our ears to Your call, open our hearts to one another and then send us back out into the world, to live and work as Your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord,

C: Amen.

Theme Verse:

P: Jesus once told the disciples, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. (Mark 1:17). As we go on our Lenten Journey, we follow Jesus as he sends us just as the Father send him.

C: Jesus also told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life[f] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

The Opening Hymn:

Hymn: #600, St. 1-3 “Mark How the Lamb of God’s Self-Offering”

1 Mark how the Lamb of God’s self-off’ring our human sinfulness takes on in the birthwaters of the Jordan as Jesus is baptized by John. Hear how the voice from heaven thunders, “Lo, this is My belovèd Son.” See how in dovelike form the Spirit descends on God’s Anointed One.

- 2 From this assurance of God's favor Jesus goes to the wilderness, There to endure a time of testing that readied Him to teach and bless. So we, by water and the Spirit baptized into Christ's ministry, are often led to paths of service through mazes of adversity.**
- 3 Grant us, O God, the strength and courage to live the faith our lips declare; Bless us in our baptismal calling; Christ's royal priesthood help us share. Turn us from ev'ry false allegiance, that we may trust in Christ alone: Raise up in us a chosen people Transformed by love to be Your own.**

The Opening Litany

P: As Your Followers Jesus, you call us to Follow you, and go out into the deep.

C: **Yet Like Jonah we run, like Job we question, like Thomas we doubt, and like Adam and Eve we don't always choose to Follow you.**

P: Because to follow you in faith is more dangerous and yet also more compelling; It's our faith in you that tells us to carry the cross, to embrace death

C: **Faith tells us to lay down our interests for the sake of others;**

P: But faith in you Jesus is the only way that leads us to resurrection, to life renewed and overflowing.

C: **We praise you for this faith, and we ask You to open our hearts to receive it.**

Confession and Absolution

P: Lord Jesus, you call us and you send us out. But like Abram there is nothing special about us, Like Isaiah we realize we are sinful, and like Peter we don't believe we deserve to be in your presence.

C: **And yet you call us, and you send us. You call us into a world that desperately still needs to hear of your Love for us all. You send us into the world, just as you were sent into the world, to**

live among us, to carry our sin and most of all to die in our place. Thank you for taking our sin to the cross, and help us as you send us to live a life that reflects your love to the world.

P: God sends you and calls you regardless of your past, regardless of your sin, regardless of the fact that you might not feel worthy. He calls you out and takes us into a deeper relationship with him. He sends because he was sent. Sent to you and sent for you. Sent to die, and sent to rise. Sent to forgive us and sent to prepare a place for us. And because Jesus has been sent for you and for your sake and mine, He died for all our sins. Because of the sacrifice of His son, and out of love for us, God forgives us of all our sins in the name of the Father, the † Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Absolution:

Hymn: LSB #657, St. 1-4, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod And wins salvation
glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost,
rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God
Himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts
is He, Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat’ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow’r us.
Let this world’s tyrant rage; In battle we’ll engage. His might is
doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail! One little word
subdues him.**

**4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!**

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 2:1–10

¹And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." ²And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' ⁵And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them. ⁶And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. ⁷And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house. ⁸"But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." ⁹And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

Responsive Psalm 55: 16-22

P: I call to God,
and the LORD will save me.

C: **Evening and morning and at noon**
I utter my complaint and moan,

and he hears my voice.

P: He redeems my soul in safety
from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.

**C: God will give ear and humble them,
he who is enthroned from of old, Selah
because they do not change
and do not fear God.**

P: My companion stretched out his hand against his friends;
he violated his covenant.

**C: His speech was smooth as butter,
yet war was in his heart;
his words were softer than oil,
yet they were drawn swords.**

P: Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you;
he will never permit
the righteous to be moved.

**C: Glory be to the Father, and to the † Son, and to the Holy
Ghost As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:31-39

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than

conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lenten Verse

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel Reading: Matt 16:13-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to

Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."
²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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.

Hymn of The Day:

Hymn: LSB #718, St. 1-3, "Jesus Lead Thou On"

**1 Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And although the way be cheerless, We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand To our fatherland.**

- 2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faithless fears o'ertake us; Let not faith and hope forsake us; For through many a woe To our home we go.
- 3 When we seek relief from a long-felt grief, When temptations come alluring, Make us patient and enduring. Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.

Sermon:

Follow Me

Offertory: LSB #806 "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

- 1 Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. (2x)

And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," Because of what the Lord has done for us. (2x)

Give thanks, give thanks.

Prayers:

P: Merciful God, help us to turn away from things that do not lead to life – from attitudes and actions that get in the way of our relationship with You and distract us from hearing Your voice and doing Your will. To the one who calls us out into His world.

C: Help us oh Lord, to pick up our Cross and Follow You.

P: Open our eyes and ears to Your presence and Your call. Give us courage to take up our cross and follow where You lead, even if the path is uncertain or leads in unexpected directions. Take our lives, and use us to Your glory. To the one who calls us out into His World.

C: Help us oh Lord, to pick up our Cross and Follow You.

P: Though we strive to live lives that honor you, Lord, we know that we so often fail. Sometimes we fail by sheer disobedience. Sometimes we fail by ignorance and unthinking inaction. But sometimes we fail by our own misguided efforts to do what is

careful and wise and right. Forgive our many failures, especially our failure to love and to serve without restraint. Teach us to learn to live and to love without the need always first to evaluate, calculate, and measure. Teach us to give ourselves without limit to you and to the work you give us to do. To the one who calls us out into His World.

C: Help us oh Lord, to pick up our Cross and Follow You.

P: There are those around us, Lord God, who need us and need You. You place us in the midst of neighbors and friends and coworkers who need our gifts of love. Give us courage to serve them by our actions and by our words so that they may also come to know the sweet and wonderful reality of your love. We pray in particular for those we name before you in our silent prayers [silence for personal petitions]. Give each of these people the comfort of your mercy and the assurance of your grace, and use us to serve them well. To the one who calls us out into His World.

C: Help us oh Lord, to pick up our Cross and Follow You.

P: Lord God, your good creation has been marred by the evil of sin. We see and hear and smell the sorrow and the decay all around us. Give us renewed zeal for the work you give us to do in fighting evil, resisting decay, and restoring what is broken. To the one who calls us out into His World.

C: Help us oh Lord, to pick up our Cross and Follow You.

P: As you send us Lord, give us again your perfect grace and peace. By Your strength enable us to accomplish all that you give us to do. We pray in your holy name.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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. Amen.

The Benediction:

P: Out of his great love for his creation, the Father sent his Son to die in our place and create a way for us to be with God forever. Now, the Holy Spirit brings the grace of that sacrifice to you and through you works to bring it to others. Go with God's grace and peace as we follow Jesus to the places where he already is, our homes, our communities and in our world. In the name of the father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn:

Hymn: LSB #548, St. 1-3, "Thanks to Thee O Christ, Victorious"

- 1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life! Death hath now no power o'er us, Thou hast conquered in the strife. Thanks because Thou didst arise and hast opened paradise! None can fully sing the glory Of the resurrection story.**
- 2 Thou hast died for my transgression, all my sins on Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me salvation, on the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall arise and shall meet Thee in the skies. Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.**
- 3 For the joy Thine advent gave me, for Thy holy, precious Word; For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, for Thy blest Communion board; for Thy death, the bitter scorn, for Thy resurrection morn, Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, and in heav'n I shall behold Thee.**

**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
1337 W. 11th St, Tempe, AZ 85281-5398**

Serving you at Worship:

Officiant Preacher:

Rev. Tim Anderson

Organist/Director:

Ellen Brown

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

10 A.M. SUNDAY, March 13th	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
12 PM-5:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16th	LENTEN MIDWEEK 2
10 A.M. SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH	THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
12 PM-7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23rd	LENTEN MIDWEEK 3
10 A.M. SUNDAY, MARCH 27th	FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
12 PM-7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30th	LENTEN MIDWEEK 4
10 A.M. SUNDAY, April 3rd	FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
12 PM-7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, April 6TH	LENTEN MIDWEEK 5