# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church – Tempe, AZ**

The Mission of Beautiful Savior is to Serve the Lord, Extend the Gospel and Make Jesus alive in the community.

April 21, 2024

10:00 AM



### **AS WE GATHER**

The Lord is our shepherd, but we still want. We want whatever our hearts desire. He makes us lie down in green pastures, but we spy grass that is greener on the other side of the fence. He leads us beside the still waters, but we know of still more exciting places where we'd love to drink our fill. He restores our souls when we want to live life the way we see fit. He leads us for His name's sake, but we want to make a name for ourselves. All of us, are sheep going astray. Yet The Lord is our Shepherd, our Good Shepherd. And all He wants is you and me. So, have no fear, little flock, for He who is known by the Father knows you. He calls you by name, and has made you His own. He gives you eternal life. You shall never perish. No one will snatch you out of the hands of the shepherd whose hands were bound to the cross to give you eternal life.

### PRELUDE

"Love is the Only Power" - Lani Smith

# PASTORAL WELCOME

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

O Good Shepherd, You desire to guide all into safety, refreshment and peace. Pastor: Meet us here today and fill us with your love, that we may look into your world with your loving knowledge, welcome our sisters and brothers with your joy and offer our lives with your generosity as members of your beloved community: in your name we pray, Amen.

**OPENING HYMN** "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" LSB #710, St. 1-5

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.

- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill; For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes; My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me; And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

Stand

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (Spoken)

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

Sit

**INTROIT** (Read responsively)

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

# He leads me in paths of righteousness for

his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

# your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

# you anoint my head with oil; my cup

overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

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.

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

KYRIE (Sing)

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C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Sing)

- P Glory be to God on high:
- C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the

Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

# SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

# C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

Sit

### FIRST READING

Acts 4:1-12

<sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

# C Thanks be to God.

# **EPISTLE READING**

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

# C Thanks be to God.

# SPECIAL MUSIC

"O How He Loves You and Me"

1. (Choir) Oh, how He loves you and me; Oh, how

#### 1 John 3:16–24

He loves you and me. He gave His life what more could He give? Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me; Oh how He loves you and me.

- 2. (Choir & Congregation) Oh, how He loves you and me; Oh, how He loves you and me. He gave His life what more could He give? (Choir) Oh, how he loves you; (Cong) Oh, how He loves me; (Choir & Cong) Oh, how He loves you and me.
- 3. (Choir) Jesus to Calv'ry did go; His love for sinners to show. What He did there brought hope from despair.
  (Choir) Oh, how he loves you;
  (Cong) Oh, how He loves me;
  (Choir & Cong) Oh, how He loves you and me.

## Piano Interlude, then REPEAT ST.2.

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Stand

ALLELUIA (Sing)

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

# HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

# C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>11</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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John 10:11–18

#### NICENE CREED (Spoken)

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- C 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.

Sit

### HYMN OF THE DAY"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" LSB #709, St. 1-6

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me, Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

#### **SERMON** To Be Known. To Be Loved. To Be Raised.

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(John 10:11-18)
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P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

### C Amen.

Stand

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN** (Sing)

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Congregation response to petitions: Hear our prayer)

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

# C And with thy spirit.

- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

#### C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### SANCTUS (Sing)

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C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

### LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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#### Amen.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."

#### PAX DOMINI (Spoken)

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

### AGNUS DEI (Sing)

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

### DISTRIBUTION

#### **Distribution Hymn**

- 1) (piano) "Jesus Messiah" Carson, Tomlin, Cash & Reeves
- 2) "Shepherd Me O God" -Marty Haugen

#### (Congregation Join on Refrains)

# Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace. **Refrain.**
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of our Name. **Refrain.**
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. **Refrain.**
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love, in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. **Refrain.**

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5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. **Refrain.** 

Words from Psalm 23. Music by Marty Haugen. Text & Music©1987 GIA Publications, Inc. .All rights reserved. Used by permission under One License #A738522.

3) Shepherd Of Tender Youth"

LSB #864, St. 1-5

- 1 Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth Through devious ways; Christ, our triumphant king, We come Your name to sing And here our children bring To join Your praise.
- 2 You are the holy Lord, O all-subduing Word, Healer of strife. Yourself You did abase That from sin's deep disgrace You so might save our race And give us life.
- 3 You are the great High Priest; You have prepared the feast Of holy love; And in our mortal pain None calls on You in vain; Our plea do not disdain; Help from above.
- 4 O ever be our guide, Our shepherd, and our pride, Our staff and song. Jesus, O Christ of God, By Your enduring Word Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.
- 5 So now, and till we die, Sound we Your praises high And joyful sing: Infants and all the throng, Who to the Church belong, Unite to swell the song To Christ, our king!

#### Stand

#### NUNC DIMITTIS (Sing)

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. 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.

### THANKSGIVING

- P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- C and His mercy endureth forever.
- P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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P The Lord be with you.

# C And with thy spirit.

- P Bless we the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

Sit

**CLOSING HYMN** 

"Lead Me, Guide Me" LBS #721, St. 1-3

Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way; For if You lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

- 1 I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r To help me over my weakest hour. Help me through the darkness Thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain
- 2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting all my trust in Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain
- 3 I am lost if You take Your hand from me, I am blind without Thy light to see. Lord, always let me Thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

#### POSTLUDE

"Lead Me, Guide Me"-Doris Akers

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Bible Study: Join us for our new study on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. We meet Sunday morning at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

New Member Classes continue today April 21st. Anyone interested in joining our church or learning more about who we are here at Beautiful Savior, what we do and what we believe is encouraged to come to our New Member meetings following fellowship this Sunday.

Women's Weekly Bible Study will meet Monday, April 22<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will study Lydia. All BSLC women and friends are invited to attend.

Brunch and Bibles: We will meet on Thursday April 25th at 12:00pm at Crackers and Co. Cafe. If interested in attending, please contact Kathryn Odle. Wendell Robson will be leading our discussion on Daniel Chapter 4.

The Quarterly Voters meeting will be held Sunday, April 28th, 11:30 AM.

LWML Regular Meeting Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

The VBS donation board is now up in the narthex hallway. Please consider taking an item or two off the board and donating them to Beautiful Savior for our Scuba Vacation Bible School.

VBS Registration now open. If you or anyone you know is interested in signing up family members and kids for our Summer 2024 Scuba VBS, you can do so on our website, <u>WWW.BeautifulSaviorTempe.Org</u>. Scuba VBS is June 17-21st from 5-7:30pm each night and includes a family dinner each evening.

Fellowship Hour: If you would like to bring something in to share during fellowship, please sign your name on the date you would like. The schedule is on the fellowship board. Questions, talk to Pastor Tim.

Donate to Beautiful Savior: Church Members and others who wish to "give electronically" can do so by going to: <u>easytithe.com/BSLCTempe</u>. Then choose the 'Recurring' or 'One-Time' giving option and choose a Fund. The Funds are: General Budget, LWML, Missions, Air conditioners, La Mesa, Staff Continuing Education, and Other. When selecting Other, please, please specify how your donation should be used. Thank you!!

#### BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH 1337 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St, Tempe, AZ 85281-5398 Office 480-967-2660 Second Line 480-967-2686 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m-12:30 p.m. WEB: <u>www.beautifulsaviortempe.org</u> Email for BSLC: <u>office@beautifulsaviortempe.org</u>

SERVING US AT WORSHIP TODAY:	
Officiant Preacher:	Pastor Tim Anderson
Dir. of Music/Organist:	Ellen Brown
Lector Reader & Assisting Elder:	Don Calender
Song Leader:	Donna Evans
Special Music:	The Beautiful Savior Singers
Pianist:	Glenn Brown
Acolyte:	Charles Haynes
Greeter:	Kathy Held
Altar:	Bobbie Littou & Charlotte Grefe

<u>Visitors</u>, please sign (with a complete address) our **Guest Book** on the podium in the entryway before you leave and/or complete a **grey/cream** "**Worship Information**" **card** found in the pew in front of you. <u>Members</u> are also encouraged to complete a "Worship Information" card (you can update address and phone number, request a pastoral visit)

Pastor Tim's Office Hours: Pastor Tim is available Monday through Thursday, 10am - 3pm as well as by appointment. Cell phone #480-536-2256.

WE CAN ASSIST THOSE UNABLE TO HEAR WELL...We have 3 cordless headsets available to use in the pews. Just let an usher know and they will be happy to bring you one.

Attendance for week: 4-14-2024; 4-14-24 Bible Class—10; Worship Service—35; 4-15-2024 Women's Bible Study—5; 4-18-24 La Mesa meal—NA, La Mesa worship—NA; La Mesa Baptism—NA.

Income report for 4-14-24: Loose Plate \$81.20; Weekly Envelopes \$2175; Designated Gifts \$240; Other \$; Total \$2496.20.

THIS WEEK AT BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR April 21, Sunday 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10 AM Fourth Sunday of Easter -w/Holy Communion (Also, being streamed on Facebook online) (\*Login info below to view online) April 22, Monday 12 PM Women's Bible Study April 23, Tuesday 6 PM WBS Planning Meeting **April 25, Thursday** 4-7 PM La Mesa **April 26, Friday** Church & Offices Cleaned April 28, Sunday 10 AM The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Prayer List:** We pray for strength, comfort and healing for:

Judy Mahr-broken hip, Cyndi Callender, Bobbie Littou, Nolan Conley, Blue Sky & Amina Kruck, Kevin– infection in leg, Charlotte's, grand baby, Marianne Lemkau, Nola vision problems, Mary Tarsitano, Carol Hurley, Josh, Ken, Christy, daughter-in-law of Bergmans, Wendy Sievers, Bev Dase, Ken w/MS;

Pastor Pope in hospice care;

Rachel Givan's mother Beth w/Parkinson's & cancer, Nicole McClain, Annalisa Durnan, Brenda Frank, Warren, Cheryl, Jim Schutkowski – cancer treatments;

Len Lacy - memory care;

All nations dealing with hardships and for military deployed to areas of conflict;

FOR AT HOME WORSHIPERS WHO MAY VIEW SERVICES ONLINE. INSTRUCTIONS ARE BELOW: **\*SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE YOU CAN GO ONLINE & VIEW AT** 

1) Open a webpage browser (internet explorer, chrome, Firefox, etc.)

2) Type or paste the following link into your address bar:

www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranChurchTempe/

3) Option 1 - Scroll until you find a post that shows a "Live" feed titled for the Sunday service, or

4) Option 2 - Click on the "Videos" button on the left-hand sidebar (ignore anything asking you to sign up or sign in to Facebook)

5) Look for the video titled for the date of the Sunday service. Video stream will be live starting at or around 10am. If it does not show up, try refreshing the page. The video of the service will remain on the page if you would like to view it at a later time, or to replay it again at your discretion.

<u>Lutheran Hour Broadcast - KFNX RADIO (1100) @ 10 AM</u> April 21 "More Than He Bargained For" Lutheran Hour Speaker: <u>Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler</u> Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect. (Acts 3:6)



#### HOLY COMMUNION. . .OUR UNDERSTANDING

It is the special joy of the baptized and instructed Christian to celebrate Christ in our very midst with the Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion). The Scripture clearly and carefully teaches that, in Holy Communion, the very Body and the very Blood of our Lord Jesus are really present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine. It also teaches that "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord (acknowledging the Real Presence of Jesus with the elements) eats and drinks judgment on himself." (I Corinthians 11:28-29).

Communicants, then, are rightfully prepared and "worthy" when they:

- are truly penitent of their sins;
- even now embrace Jesus as their Savior and recognize His Real Presence in the bread and the wine; and
- seek to amend their sinful lives, with the assistance of this Meal and the power of the Holy Spirit. If you have any further questions, please speak with the Pastor before the service.

Other notes on the distribution of Holy Communion:

- 1) Wine is the Biblical standard for all communicants. However, grape juice is in some glasses and available in the <u>center</u> of each tray for those who have an intolerance to alcohol.
  - 2) The Blood of Christ, in, with and under the wine, is served in individual glasses.

3) Children and adults not instructed or confirmed are still encouraged to approach The Table to receive a blessing.