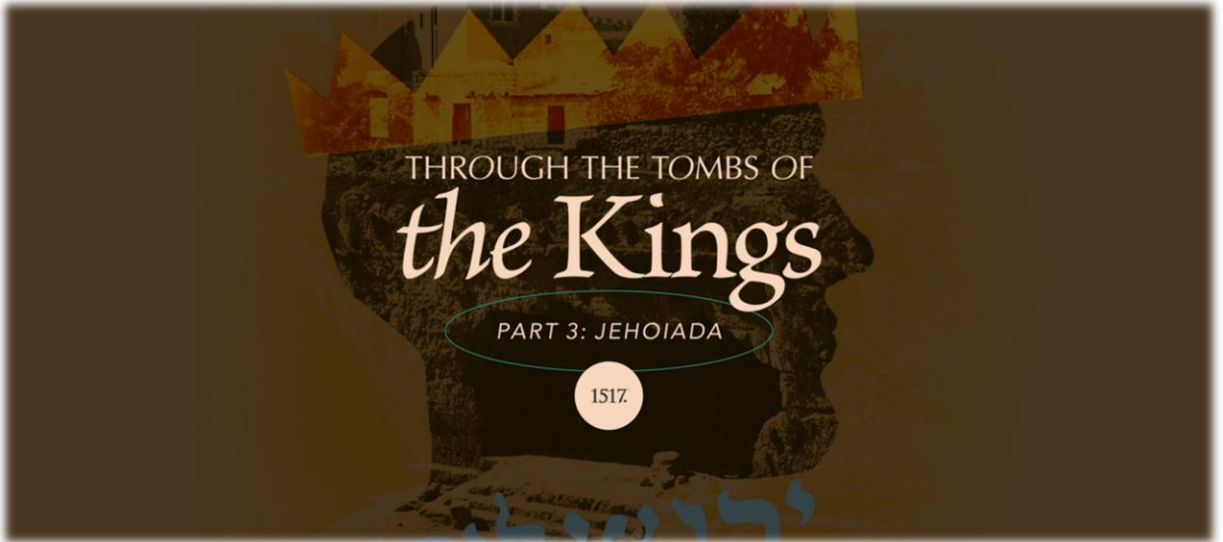


THIRD WEDNESDAY OF LENT
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Tempe, AZ

March 4, 2026

6:30 PM

Through the Tombs of the Kings:
A Lenten Journey from Human Failure to Christ's Empty Tomb



AS WE GATHER

Tonight, we continue our Lenten journey through the tombs of the kings, remembering that you can tell a lot about a king by where he is buried, and you can tell everything about our King Jesus by the tomb He left behind. As we walk among the graves of Judah's kings, each one reveals both human frailty and God's faithfulness, pointing us beyond death to Christ, who enters the grave for us and leaves it empty. Tonight, we come to the tomb of Jehoiada, a man buried with kings, though he was not a king at all. In a dark and dangerous time, when the line of David seemed all but lost, God worked quietly through a faithful priest, a courageous

woman, and a hidden child to preserve His promise. As we hear God's Word, we are reminded that salvation is not achieved by power or position, but by God's grace alone. From death to life, from hidden hope to open confession, the Lord raises the dead and brings life where none seemed possible.

PRELUDE

"Grace Greater Than Our Sin" - Johnston & Towner

PASTORAL WELCOME

THEME VERSE

People: But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were about to be put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of Jehoiada the priest, because she was a sister of Ahaziah, hid Joash from Athaliah, so that she did not put Joash to death. (2 *Chronicles* 22:11)

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: God of mercy, when Your purposes are hidden and the future seems uncertain, You remain faithful. In dark and dangerous moments, You quietly preserve Your promises and bring life where death appears to reign. Strengthen us through Christ when we cannot see what You are doing, and steady our hearts when fear or uncertainty surrounds us. Strip away our self-reliance, help us to see our lives within the larger work of Your saving will, and open our eyes to trust Your grace at work even when it is unseen. Abide with us by Your Spirit, that we may remain faithful, confident in Your promises, and rooted in the life You give through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”
LSB #575, v. 1-4

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. *Refrain*

Refrain On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

INVOCATION

LSB 167

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: A word of hope came from the Lord to His people in a time of fear and danger.

People: God preserved His promise when all seemed lost.

Pastor: When the line of the king was threatened and death appeared to rule,

People: The Lord was quietly at work, guarding life and keeping His word.

Pastor: We enter worship trusting that God does not abandon His people,

People: Even when His work is hidden from our sight.

Pastor: Tonight, we gather to hear again of God's faithfulness,

People: For in His Word, we see that death does not have the final word, and that God's promises endure.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord who brings life out of darkness.

People: We trust His grace and give Him praise. Amen.

CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we continue our Lenten journey through the tombs of the kings, tonight we stand in a moment when God's promises seem hidden. We hear of danger, fear, and silence, and we recognize what it is like to live as those who do not yet see how God is at work. Standing before Him, we confess our need for mercy.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that it is difficult for us to trust You when the future is unclear. When Your work is hidden and our circumstances feel threatening or unfamiliar, we grow fearful and overwhelmed. We become consumed with the present moment and lose sight of Your promises. In our weakness, we question Your goodness, Your love, and Your power to act. We confess that we do not always see how You are at work for our good and for the good of Your kingdom. We struggle to believe that You are preserving life when death appears to rule. Forgive us for our doubt, our impatience, and our failure to trust You. Grant us faith to believe that even when we cannot see it, Your promises remain sure.

Pastor: Hear the good news. When death seemed to have the final

word, God was quietly preserving His promise. When the line of the king appeared lost, the Lord was still at work. In Jesus Christ, God has done this once and for all. Though we were dead in our trespasses, He made us alive by grace. Christ entered death for us, was hidden in the tomb, and was raised to new life, so that forgiveness and hope might be ours. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Your doubts are forgiven. Your future is secure. God’s promises stand.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”
LSB #609, v. 2

**2 We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB 168-173

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, throughout the ages You have preserved Your promises in ways both quiet and unseen, raising up faithful people at the right time, as You did with Jehoiada, to guard life and speak truth when danger surrounded Your people. Strengthen us to trust that You are still at work in this way today, bringing the right voices, encouragement, and faith into our lives when we need them most. Grant us wisdom to recognize Your hand at work through others, patience to wait upon Your timing when the future is unclear, and confidence to remain faithful where You have placed us. Fix our hope on

Jesus Christ, who was hidden in death and raised to life for us, and lead us to trust Your promises until the day they are fully revealed.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Chronicles 22:10-23:11

¹⁰ Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah. ¹¹ But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were about to be put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of Jehoiada the priest, because she was a sister of Ahaziah, hid him from Athaliah, so that she did not put him to death. ¹² And he remained with them six years, hidden in the house of God, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

¹ But in the seventh year Jehoiada took courage and entered into a covenant with the commanders of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri. ² And they went about through Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of fathers' houses of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. ³ And all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And Jehoiada said to them, "Behold, the king's son! Let him reign, as the Lord spoke concerning the sons of David. ⁴ This is the thing that you shall do: of you priests and Levites who come off duty on the Sabbath, one third shall be gatekeepers, ⁵ and one third shall be at the king's house and one third at the Gate of the Foundation. And all the people shall be in the courts of the house of the Lord. ⁶ Let no one enter the house of the Lord except the priests and ministering Levites. They may enter, for they are holy, but all the people shall keep the charge of the Lord. ⁷ The Levites shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand. And whoever enters the house shall be put to

death. Be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out.”

⁸ The Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded, and they each brought his men, who were to go off duty on the Sabbath, with those who were to come on duty on the Sabbath, for Jehoiada the priest did not dismiss the divisions. ⁹ And Jehoiada the priest gave to the captains the spears and the large and small shields that had been King David's, which were in the house of God. ¹⁰ And he set all the people as a guard for the king, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, around the altar and the house. ¹¹ Then they brought out the king's son and put the crown on him and gave him the testimony. And they proclaimed him king, and Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and they said, “Long live the king.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Grace Alone"

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LENTEN REFRAIN *(Sung)*

LSB 173

People: 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.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20-26

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED

People: 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

**"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
LSB #733, v. 1-6**

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:**
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.**
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.**
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight**

**Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.**

**6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!**

SERMON

“Buried with Kings”

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Sung*)

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB #422, v. 1

**1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: God of grace, throughout the history of Your people You have carried out Your saving purposes through faithful servants who stood watch when danger threatened. When violence and fear surrounded Your people, You raised up Jehoiada and others

like him to protect life and preserve Your promises. Meet us now as we gather in Your presence, trusting that You are still at work through faithful hands and willing hearts. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Almighty Father, You know how often we overlook the quiet work You are doing among us. When Your purposes unfold slowly or remain hidden, we grow impatient and uncertain. Strengthen us to trust Your timing, to listen to those You send to guide and guard us, and to believe that Your plans do not fail even when we cannot yet see their outcome. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Bless Your Church, O Lord. Raise up faithful leaders, teachers, caregivers, and servants, people like Jehoiada, who protect the vulnerable, speak truth in difficult moments, and act with courage for the sake of others. Give them wisdom, endurance, and humility, and teach us to value faithfulness over recognition and obedience over power.

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Bless the communities in which we live. Strengthen parents, guardians, mentors, first responders, and all who quietly stand watch over others. Guard those who protect life, uphold justice, and work for peace, and make us attentive to the ways You are using ordinary people to accomplish Your good purposes. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Give tender care to all who are weak, suffering, or afraid. Be near to those burdened by illness, grief, loss, or uncertainty. Surround them with people who will protect, encourage, and speak hope into their lives. Especially this day, we lift before You those on our prayer list and those we now name in our hearts... Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Heavenly Father, many in this world depend on the courage and compassion of others for their safety and survival. Guide those who work to shelter the vulnerable, defend the powerless, and care for those in danger. Use Your Church to be a place of refuge and faithful action in a fearful world. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Comfort all who mourn losses of home, work, health, or loved ones. Provide people in their lives who will walk alongside them with patience and care. Sustain them with Your promises until hope is renewed and strength is restored. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: For those who feel forgotten, threatened, or alone, remind them that You have not abandoned them. Bring into their lives faithful witnesses of Your love, and assure them that even in hidden places, You are guarding life and keeping Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Lord God, You have called us to follow Jesus Christ, who laid down His life to protect and save us and who was raised to life by Your power. Keep us steadfast in faith, faithful in love, and ready to serve according to Your purposes, until You bring us with all Your saints into resurrection life. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

LSB 179

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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 183

Pastor: May the Lord who quietly preserved His promise in a time of danger guard you and keep you. May He strengthen you through faithful people placed in your life, and make you faithful for the sake of others. And may Jesus Christ, who was hidden in death and raised to life for you, keep you in His grace until all God's purposes are complete. In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

LSB #922, v. 1-4

- 1** Go, My children, with My blessing,
Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river
I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own.

- 2** Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story;
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.

- 3** Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.

**Here My Spirit's power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.**

**4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000199

POSTLUDE

**"Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow"
-Setting by David Cherwien**

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*This Lenten Series is adapted from a series of articles on www.1517.com
by author and Pastor Steve Kruschel*

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Rev. Tim Anderson

Dir. of Music/Organist:

Ellen Brown

Song Leader:

Charles Haynes

Lector Reader:

Deb McPeters

Acolyte:

TBD

Assisting Elder:

Dawson Chatfield

Visitors, 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.

Members are also encouraged to complete a “Worship Information” card (you can update address and phone number, request a pastoral visit).

Giving Electronically please go to easytithe.com/BSLCTempe and choose “One-Time” or “Recurring” before choosing a fund: General Budget, LWML, Missions, Air conditioners, La Mesa, Staff Continuing Education, Vacation Bible School, and Other. Please specify when selecting Other.

Pastor Tim's Office Hours: He is available Monday through Thursday, 10am - 3pm as well as by appointment. Pastor Tim will use the rest of his time to attending to members, meetings, and creating connections for the church in our community. His cell phone number is 480-536-2256.

Prayer Cards: In the pews is a prayer card that can be filled out and placed in the offering plate. Please check the box at the bottom of the card if you want the prayer to be added to our Email Prayer Chain.