

FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT

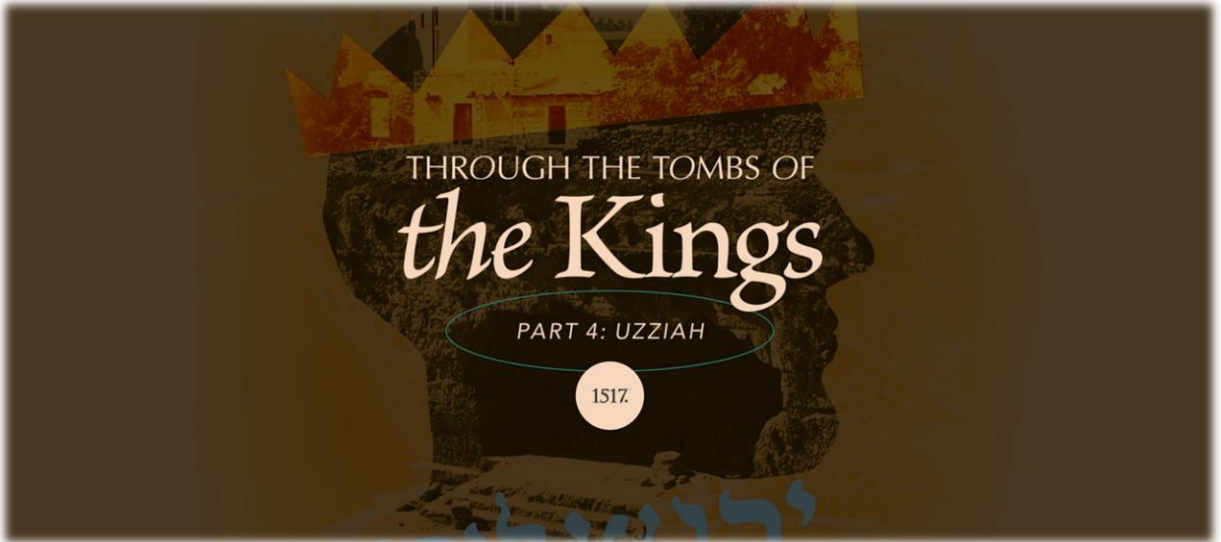
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Tempe, AZ

March 11, 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, we see their faith and failure, their strength and despair, until each tomb points us beyond itself to Christ, who enters death for us and leaves it empty. Tonight, we come to the reign of King Uzziah, a king who began well but was undone by pride disguised as devotion. His desire to serve God on his own terms led to separation in life and in death, as he was buried apart from the

kings. As we hear God's Word, we are called to honest self-examination and humility, to recognize how easily pride hides beneath religious appearances. And we are directed to Jesus Christ, the truly humble King, who did not grasp at glory, but humbled Himself unto death on a cross to truly save.

PRELUDE

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" - Arr. Franklin Ritter

PASTORAL WELCOME

THEME VERSE

People: But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction.
(2 Chronicles 26:16a)

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of every good gift, and You alone are worthy of our trust and devotion. When strength and success tempt us toward pride, remind us that life and salvation come not from ourselves, but from You. Turn our hearts away from self-reliance and toward true humility. As we gather around Your Word this night, shape our minds by the example of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who did not seek His own glory, but humbled Himself in obedience for our sake. Teach us to trust Your will above our own, to receive Your mercy with grateful hearts, and to walk in the way of humble faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

**"Abide with Me"
LSB #878, v. 1-6**

**1 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.**

2 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.

3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

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: When King Uzziah grew strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction.

People: **Pride led him to trust himself rather than the Lord who had made him strong.**

Pastor: The Lord looks upon the hearts of His people and warns against self-exaltation.

People: **For the Lord opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

Pastor: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

People: **Who humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Pastor: Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name above every name.

People: **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Pastor: Let us draw near with humble and repentant hearts.

People: Trusting not in ourselves, but in Christ alone, we worship the King who truly saves.

CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we continue our Lenten journey through the tombs of the kings, tonight we come to the reign of King Uzziah. We see a king who was blessed with strength and success, yet whose heart grew proud. Standing before God, we are reminded how easily devotion can be distorted by self-reliance and how quickly pride can hide beneath religious activity.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You. When You grant us success, knowledge, or influence, we are tempted to trust ourselves instead of You. We seek to serve on our own terms and assume that our intentions justify our actions. Like Uzziah, we overstep Your Word, blur the boundaries You have set, and confuse our desires with Your will. We confess that we often trust in our righteousness, compare ourselves to others, and fail to see our need for mercy. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are by nature sinful and unclean and deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and teach us true humility, that we may live by faith and not by pride. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the good news. There is One who did not exalt Himself, One who did not grasp at power or glory. Jesus Christ humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. For His sake, God shows mercy to sinners, lifts up the lowly, and forgives the repentant. 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. In Christ, your pride is forgiven, your sins are removed, and you are restored by grace alone.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”
LSB #609, v. 3

**3 Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB 168-173

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Heavenly Father, so often we listen more closely to our own desires than to Your Word and will. When You grant us strength or success, we are tempted to rely on ourselves and to serve You on our own terms. Teach us instead the humility of Jesus Christ, who did not seek His own glory, but entrusted Himself fully to You. Strengthen us to set aside pride, to receive Your mercy with thankful hearts, and to trust Your will even when it runs contrary to our own. Grant us patience to wait upon You, faith to rely on Your promises, and hearts shaped by the mind of Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Chronicles 26:1-23

And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. ² He built Eloth and restored it to Judah, after the king slept with his fathers. ³ Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. ⁴ And he did what was right in the eyes of

the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. ⁵ He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper.

⁶ He went out and made war against the Philistines and broke through the wall of Gath and the wall of Jabneh and the wall of Ashdod, and he built cities in the territory of Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines. ⁷ God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabians who lived in Gurbaal and against the Meunites. ⁸ The Ammonites paid tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread even to the border of Egypt, for he became very strong. ⁹ Moreover, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate and at the Valley Gate and at the Angle, and fortified them. ¹⁰ And he built towers in the wilderness and cut out many cisterns, for he had large herds, both in the Shephelah and in the plain, and he had farmers and vinedressers in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil. ¹¹ Moreover, Uzziah had an army of soldiers, fit for war, in divisions according to the numbers in the muster made by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer, under the direction of Hananiah, one of the king's commanders. ¹² The whole number of the heads of fathers' houses of mighty men of valor was 2,600. ¹³ Under their command was an army of 307,500, who could make war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. ¹⁴ And Uzziah prepared for all the army shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and stones for slinging. ¹⁵ In Jerusalem he made machines, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

¹⁶ But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the Lord his God and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense. ¹⁷ But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the Lord who were men of valor, ¹⁸ and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the

priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the Lord God.”¹⁹ Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the Lord, by the altar of incense.²⁰ And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the Lord had struck him.²¹ And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the Lord. And Jotham his son was over the king's household, governing the people of the land.

²² Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz wrote.²³ And Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the burial field that belonged to the kings, for they said, “He is a leper.” And Jotham his son reigned in his place.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

"At Calvary"

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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

Luke 18:9-14

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ 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. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ 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!' ¹⁴ 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.

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

**"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"
LSB #651, v. 1-5**

- 1 I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.**

- 2 Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.**

- 3 I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.**

- 4 For them my tears shall fall;
For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n**

Till toils and cares shall end.

- 5 Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav'n.**

SERMON "Buried Apart from the 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, You are the giver of all strength, wisdom, and authority. When King Uzziah grew strong, his heart grew proud, and he trusted himself rather than the Lord who had established him. Meet us now in our weakness, we pray, and remind us that all we have and all we are comes from You alone. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Almighty Father, You know how easily pride disguises itself as devotion. We confuse activity with faithfulness and confidence with obedience. Bring our sins into the light of Your truth. Expose the ways we trust ourselves more than Your Word,

justify our actions rather than repent, and assume Your approval rather than seek Your mercy. Humble us before You, that we may receive forgiveness rather than stand apart in self-righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Bless Your Church, O Lord. Guard her from pride, from seeking glory for herself, and from serving according to human wisdom rather than Your will. Shape us by the mind of Christ, who did not exalt Himself but humbled Himself in obedience. Teach us to serve faithfully, to repent honestly, and to trust Your grace above all else. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Bless the communities in which we live. Where success leads to arrogance, bring humility. Where power is abused, bring accountability. Where comparison and judgment divide, bring mercy and understanding. Use us to reflect the humility of Christ in our words, actions, and relationships. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Give tender care to all who are struggling through weakness, sickness, grief, or change. When illness or loss strips away false confidence, draw them near to Your mercy. Especially this day, we lift before You those on our prayer list and those we now name in our hearts... Remind them that Your strength is made perfect in weakness. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Lord God, You have called us to follow Jesus Christ, the truly humble King, who trusted You completely and was obedient even unto death. Grant us grace to live by faith rather than pride, to confess rather than compare, and to trust not in ourselves but in Him alone. Bring us at last with all Your saints into resurrection life, where every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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 opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble bless you and keep you. May He guard your hearts from self-reliance and fix your trust on His mercy alone. And may Jesus Christ, the humble King who became obedient unto death and was exalted by the Father, keep your hearts and minds in true faith, now and into life everlasting. In the name of the Father and of the †Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“The Day Thou Gavest”

LSB #886, v. 1-5

- 1** The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

- 2** We thank Thee that Thy Church, unsleeping
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And never rests by day or night.

- 3** As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,

Nor dies the strain of praise away.

- 4 The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
Thy saints beneath the western skies,
And hour by hour, as day is breaking,
Fresh hymns of thankful praise arise.**
- 5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands and grows forever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.**

POSTLUDE

"Cheer Thee, My Soul" - J.S.Bach

*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:

Benjamin Greer

Acolyte:

TBD

Assisting Elder:

Wendell Robson

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.