



Lenten Series:
**Zechariah
Walks Us to
the Cross**

Today's Theme:
**The Truth, the
Whole Truth,
and Nothing
but the Truth**



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February 25, 2026 – 6:30 PM
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Guest Check In: www.VisitSiloah.com



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We gather in our midweek worship for serious contemplation of our sin and joyful relationship with our Savior, Jesus.

REMAIN SEATED

Lent Gathering Rite

M: We gather to focus on Jesus' Passion.

C: To see His resolve, consider His sacrifice and ponder His love.

We gather in the name of our Triune God as we remember our baptism

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We also gather to see and confess our sin.

We confess that we scatter from our Shepherd, do not see Him as our worthy King or High Priest. We flee from the truth and deserve to be pierced for our sin. Jesus forgive us, cover us, renew us, lead us.

Our Good Shepherd, King and Priest, Jesus, has deemed you worth enough to choose to be pierced in your place. He has paid for all of your sins and has given you the truth to set you free.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

STAND

638 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

CW 638 sts. 1-3



1 The gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, who sent his
2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, who made th' a -
3 It brings the Sav - ior's right - eous - ness to robe our



Son to save our race, pro - claims how Je - sus
ton - ing sac - ri - fice and calls the souls with
souls in roy - al dress; from all our guilt it



lived and died that we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
guilt op - pressed to come and find e - ter - nal rest.
brings re - lease and gives the trou - bled con - science peace.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

Tune: Cationale Germanicum, Gochsheim, 1628

Text and tune: Public domain

BE SEATED

¹²Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³“It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

¹⁶“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,

“ ‘From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?”

¹⁷And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

¹⁸Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered.

²⁰When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” they asked.

²¹Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. ²²If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

²³Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹" 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

³¹"Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

³³"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵"The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

³⁸"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

⁴³“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought

him a denarius, ²⁰and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

²¹“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

²²When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

²³That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. ²⁴“Teacher,” they said, “Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him. ²⁵Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. ²⁶The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. ²⁷Finally, the woman died. ²⁸Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?”

²⁹Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. ³⁰At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. ³¹But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, ³²‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

³³When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

⁴¹While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴²“What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

“The son of David,” they replied.

⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,

⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand

until I put your enemies
under your feet.” ’

⁴⁵If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

638 The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace

CW 638 sts. 4–6



4 It is the pow'r of God to save from sin and
5 It bears to all the ti - dings glad and bids their
6 May we in faith its mes - sage learn nor thank - less -



Sa - tan and the grave; it works the faith which
hearts no more be sad; the wea - ry, bur - dened
ly its bless - ings spurn; may we in faith its



firm - ly clings to all the trea - sures which it brings.
souls it cheers and ban - ish - es their guilt - y fears.
truth con - fess and praise the Lord, our right - eous - ness.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Canticnale Germanicum, Gochsheim, 1628
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON - The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth

Sermon Text

Zechariah 8:14-17

¹⁴This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Just as I had determined to bring disaster on you and showed no pity when your ancestors angered me," says the LORD Almighty, ¹⁵so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid. ¹⁶These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; ¹⁷do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the LORD.

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633 Speak, O Lord

CW 633



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
 2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
 3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
 true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
 of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
 at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
 dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
 Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
 walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

The Public Use of the Keys

Second: How does a Christian congregation use the keys?

A Christian congregation with its called servant of Christ uses the keys in accordance with Christ's command by forgiving those who repent of their sin and are willing to amend, and by excluding from the congregation those who are plainly impenitent that they may repent. I believe that when this is done, it is as valid and certain in heaven also, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us himself.

Where is this written?

Jesus says in Matthew, chapter 18, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Lenten Prayer

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

824 This Is the Threefold Truth

CW 824 sts. 1, Ref, 4-5



1 This is the three-fold truth on which our faith de - pends;
4 By this we are up - held when doubt or grief as - sails
5 This is the three-fold truth which, if we hold it fast,



and with this joy - ful cry — wor - ship be - gins and ends:
our Chris - tian faith and love, and on - ly — grace a - vails:
chang - es the world and us and brings us — home at last:



Refrain
Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, alt.

Tune: Jack Schrader, b. 1942

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Blessing

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

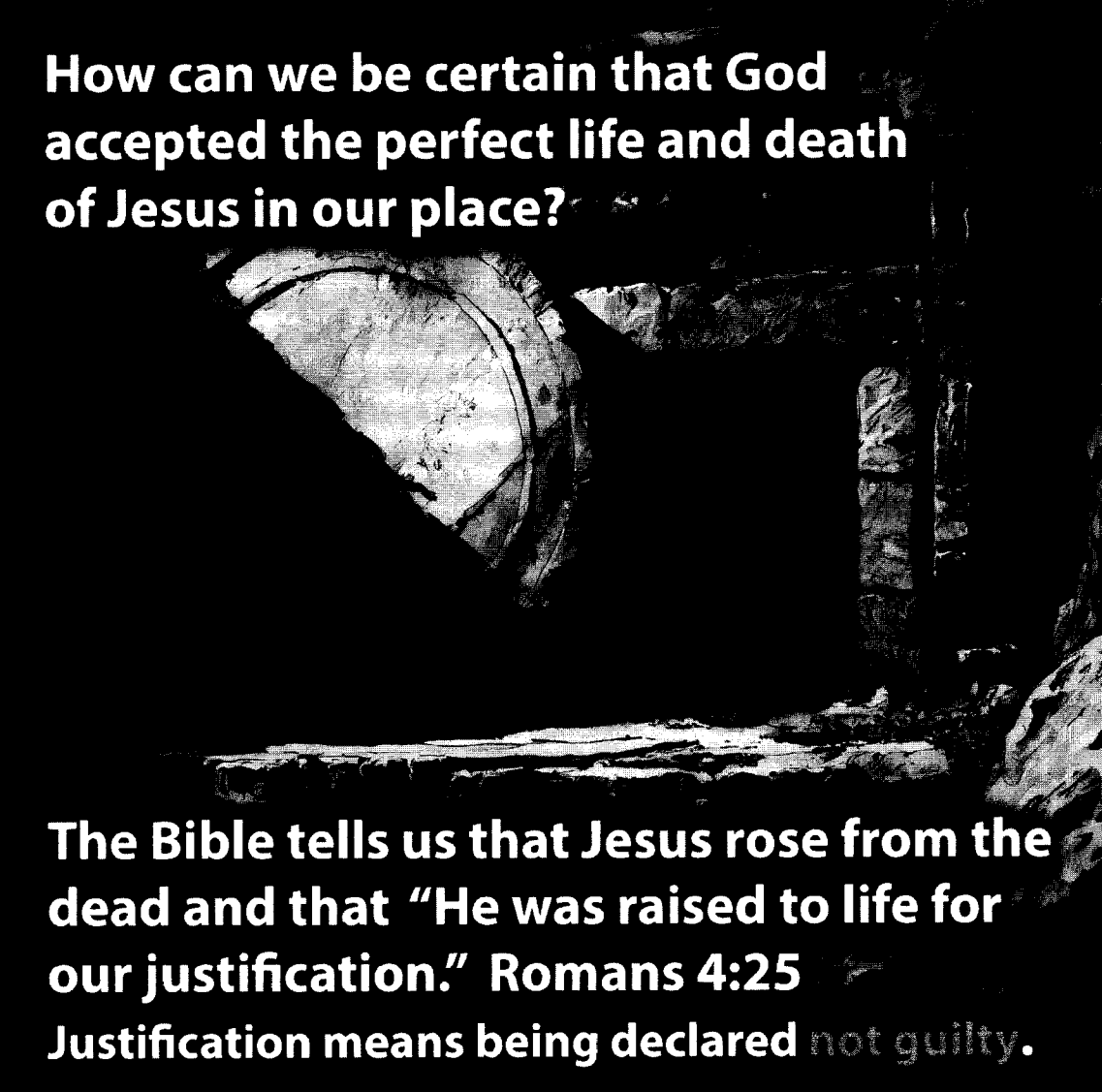
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**How can we be certain that God
accepted the perfect life and death
of Jesus in our place?**

**The Bible tells us that Jesus rose from the
dead and that “He was raised to life for
our justification.” Romans 4:25**

Justification means being declared *not guilty*.

2026 Ash Wednesday, Lenten, and Resurrection Sunday Schedule at Siloah Lutheran Church

February 18th, 2026, **Ash Wednesday** Church Service
at **6:30 P.M.** with Communion.

Lent: February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th in Hoffmann Hall

- Lent Suppers: **5:30 P.M.**
- Lent Worship Service: **6:30 P.M.**

Maundy-Thursday Service

April 2, 2026, at **6:30 P.M.**

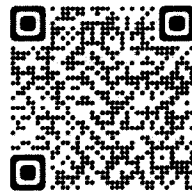
Good / Bittersweet Friday Service

April 3, 2026, at **6:30 P.M.**

Resurrection Sunday Schedule on April 5, 2026

- Sunrise Service at **8:00 A.M.**
- Breakfast at **9:00 A.M.**
- Festival Service at **10:00 A.M.**

Siloah Lutheran Church



You matter to God.

3721 North 21st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53206

Church Phone: (414) 873-5770

School Phone: (414) 873-8240

Website: siloahlutheran.org

Siloah Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

It is our God-given mission to **WITNESS** to the full and free forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ in our community.

Our Objectives are:

- To **LEARN** more and more about God's grace through his Word and Sacraments in worship, Bible study, and our Christian school for strengthening of our faith, fellowship, and families.
- To **LIVE** as examples of God's grace as we gather to encourage one another and to help the physically and spiritually needy in our congregation, our community, and the world.
- To **LABOR** in love to share God's grace, the sweet message of the gospel, with our diverse community and all with whom we come in contact.

Actions steps from today's worship:

Learn More and More: Look up "Truth" on BibleGateway or search "Bible's use of Truth" on the internet.

Read next Wednesday's text: Zechariah 13:7-9

Live as Examples: Work on speaking truthfully.

Labor in Love: Invite someone you would like to know better to a meal and start a conversation about "truth" and bring in Christ and this worship service as the conversation goes forward.