

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda, NY**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**



**AS WE GATHER**

Though we call Jesus King of kings, we often do not focus much on the nature of His kingdom. Today we continue our Lenten midweek series exploring how the kings of Judah are a shadow of Christ, the King of kings, who sits upon the throne of David, His father, forever. Each of the kings in Chronicles points us to Christ, who fulfills all the kingly promises which the kings of Judah were unable to realize in themselves. Today we consider Asa, the great-great-grandson of David, of whom Scripture says “[he] did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God” (2 Chronicles 14:2). He purchased peace for Israel and so prefigured Christ, who purchased peace with His own blood.

LSB 425 WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 51:15; 70:1*

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**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.  
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

COLLECT

Let us pray.

O Lord, the precious blood of Jesus washes away our sins and restores our spirits. Grant to us all the renewal and refreshing of the Holy Spirit, that we may with joy know the blood of our Savior has cleansed us from sin, has paid the price of our redemption, and nourishes us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

KYRIE

O Lord,  
**have mercy.**

O Christ,  
**have mercy.**

O Lord,  
**have mercy.**

LORD'S PRAYER     *Matthew 6:9-13*

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.

CREED

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.

**FIRST READING**                      *2 Chronicles 14:1–7; 16:1–13*                      (The reign of Asa)

Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land had rest for ten years. And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim and commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment. He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him. He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the LORD gave him peace. And he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side." So they built and prospered. In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and the king's house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying, "There is a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me." And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. And when Baasha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah and let his work cease. Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building, and with them he built Geba and Mizpah. At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you. Were not the

Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand. For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.” Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time. The acts of Asa, from first to last, are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. Yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but sought help from physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers, dying in the forty-first year of his reign. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** *Colossians 1:15–20* (Christ is before all things.)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CATECHISM** *The Second Article*

**I believe 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.**

What does this mean?

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,**  
who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, **that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,**

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

**This is most certainly true.**

**THIRD READING**     *Matthew 26:14–16; 27:3–6* (Judas betrays Jesus.)

Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LSB 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

SERMON

OFFERTORY

*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.*

## OFFERING

### VERSICLES

Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**let my cry come to You.**

In the day of my trouble I call upon You,

**for You answer me.**

Hide Your face from my sins,

**and blot out all my iniquities.**

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Because Your steadfast love is better than life,

**my lips will praise You.**

For You have been my help,

**and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**

Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;

**unite my heart to fear Your name.**

I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

**and I will glorify Your name forever.**

May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

**May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

Save Your people and bless Your heritage!

**Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;

**listen to my plea for grace.**

### PRAYERS

Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gracious Lord, for the sake of Your holy name, You have forgiven all the sins of the penitent and rescued from the captivity of death all whom You have redeemed through the precious blood of Your dear Son. Grant that we may live not in weakness before temptation or in the pain of guilt but according to Your steadfast love and goodness may know Your comfort, consolation, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

In Your mercy, O Lord, regard all those in any sickness, need, or sorrow, that they may be sustained in affliction, supported in need, and delivered according to Your mercy. Hear us especially on behalf of [*names*]. Give them patience, endurance, and hope, so that at length they may at last know the fullness of Your mercy and be brought with us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **Luther's Evening Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

#### **BENEDICAMUS**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**