

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

March 8st, 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 Jehoshaphat, great-great-great-grandson of David. This heir to the throne walked in the ways of his father David and walked in the commandments of the Lord—at least for a while. Then ambition lured his heart away from the Lord. The prideful ambition of our sinful hearts can only be answered by the humble Savior who suffered for our sin, died to sanctify our grave, and rose that death may reign no more.

TLH 154 Alast! And Did My Savior Bleed

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.

Almighty and gracious God, Your good will seeks that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel within the hearts of Your people, that rejoicing in Your deliverance, they may learn to be wise, discerning, and faithful as they live their lives within Your goodness and mercy and fulfill Your bidding; 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 17:1–6; 18:1–3; 19:1–4* (The reign of Jehoshaphat)
Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place and strengthened himself against Israel. He placed forces in all the fortified cities of Judah and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim that Asa his father had captured. The LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the practices of Israel. Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand. And all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor. His heart was courageous in the ways of the LORD. And furthermore, he took the high places and the Asherim out of Judah. Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, and he made a marriage alliance with Ahab. After some years he went down to Ahab in Samaria. And Ahab killed an abundance of sheep and oxen for him and for the people who were with him, and induced him to go up against Ramoth-gilead. Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead?" He answered him, "I am as you are, my people as your people. We will be with you in the war." Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned in safety to his house in Jerusalem. But Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD. Nevertheless, some good is found in you, for you destroyed the Asherahs out of the land, and have set your heart to seek God." Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem. And he went out again among the people, from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers. He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges, "Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the LORD. He is with you in giving judgment. Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes."
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Revelation 2:18–28* (You tolerate Jezebel.)

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

“I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

And I will give him the morning star

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CATECHISM

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church

on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

THIRD READING *Matthew 7:24–27* (The wise man builds his house on the rock.)

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TLH 352 O Savior, Precious Savior
SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Create in Me”

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

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.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence,

and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

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 God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul. Keep us faithful unto death so that we may receive the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Merciful Father, deliver us from all unholy associations and keep us from surrendering Your truth to the will of the moment, so that we may be steadfast and immovable in Christ amid all temptations and distractions. Guard our hearts against trusting in ourselves and our own accomplishments that we be completely dependent upon Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Father of all mercies and God of all consolation, deliver Your people from the afflictions of the flesh so that they might trust in You only and do the work of Your kingdom for the cause of Your glory. Hear us especially for [*names*]. Keep them in the grasp of Your grace and make us mindful of their plight so that we may support them in their hour of need; 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.

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.

TLH 53 Abide, O Dearest Jesus