

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

**March 15th, 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.

**LSB 436 Go to Dark Gethsemane**

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.

Merciful Father, through the blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have cleansed the way between us, so that we might be Your own possession. Build us up into a holy and righteous temple that Christ may dwell in us and manifest the Good News of His cross through us to all people. Keep us from wandering from Your Word and guide us to walk in Your ways always; 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 24:1–4, 17–25**

Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest. Jehoiada got for him two wives, and he had sons and daughters. After this Joash decided to restore the house of the LORD. Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention. Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'" But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD. Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!" At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the LORD delivered into their hand a very great army, because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash. When they had departed from him, leaving him severely wounded, his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING Hebrews 10:19–25**

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THIRD READING John 2:13–22**

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**LSB 433 Glory Be to Jesus  
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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty and most merciful God, though You are not contained in houses built by human hands, You have been pleased to dwell among Your people with the fullness of Your glory through the Means of Grace. Grant us forgiveness so that we may hear Your Holy Word with cleansed hearts and praise Your name with pure voices, until at last You bring us to the heavenly Jerusalem, where the Lamb is the temple and we unite with all the saints and angels in Your praise forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

Compassionate Lord, You graciously take into Your fatherly care all who are in trouble, temptation, affliction, adversity, and the peril of death. Comfort them, O God, with Your Spirit that they may patiently endure their trials and be preserved to everlasting life. Hear us especially for [*names*]. Support them with Your everlasting arms that in their weakness and at the hour of their death they may know Your strength and be granted a peaceful end and a joyful entrance into Your kingdom in the resurrection of the body; 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.

**LSB 922 Go My Children, with My Blessing**