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**Lenten Midweek 3**

**Chronicles of the King**

“O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned! O Source of peace ineffable, in Whom all joys are found.” *LSB* *554:1*

**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.

**Hymn** “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” (*LSB* 438)

**Opening Sentences** *Psalm 51:15; 70:1*

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

**People: and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**People: 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**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**KYRIE**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

**LORD’S PRAYER** **and** **APOSTLES’ CREED** *(LSB*,back inside cover)

**FIRST READING** 2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 18:1-3; 19:1-7

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 Asheroth 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.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** Colossians 1:15-20

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THIRD READING** Matthew 26:14-16; 27:3-6

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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** “The Church’s One Foundation”(*LSB* 644)

**SERMON *“Strange Bedfellows: Jehoshaphat”***

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Create in Me” (*LSB* 956)

**PRAYERS**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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. 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.

**People: Amen. 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.**

**BLESSING**

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

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” (*LSB* 707)