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**Lenten Midweek 5**

**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 Uzziah, a good king who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Uzziah was a strong ruler; he expanded and strengthened Judah and, “as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper” (2 Chronicles 26:5). If Uzziah had a failing, it was that he presumed what belonged to others. He played like he was a priest. God sent him packing, warning him that what he sought was not for him.

**Hymn** “Jesus, I will Ponder Now” (*LSB* 440, vs. 1-3)

**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 God, You have given us blessing upon blessing, and daily we are witness to Your generosity and grace. Keep us from pride and arrogance lest we presume upon Your goodness and believe that we merit what You have supplied to us in mercy, especially the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, whose death in our place and whose resurrection from the dead have accomplished our salvation; 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 26:1-5, 15b-21

And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. He built Eloth and restored it to Judah, after the king slept with his fathers. Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper.

And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the Lord his God and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense. But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the Lord who were men of valor, and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, “It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the Lord God.” Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the Lord, by the altar of incense. And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the Lord had struck him. And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the Lord. And Jotham his son was over the king's household, governing the people of the land.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 7:1-10, 26-28

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THIRD READING** John 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hymn** “Jesus, I will Ponder Now” (*LSB* 440, vs. 4-6)

**SERMON *“Know Thyself: Uzziah”***

**OFFERING**

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

**PRAYERS**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: Holy Lord, keep us from pride, lest in thinking too highly of ourselves, we turn away from You and Your mercy. Instill within us the humble heart of faith that trusts in Your Word and bear within us the obedience of faith that delights to follow where You have led, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Lord God, You are the strength of the weak, the consolation of those who suffer, the peace of those troubled, and the hope of those in the hour of death. Deliver, we pray You, all struggling according to Your will, 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** “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (*LSB* 709)