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**Lenten Midweek 6**

**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 Josiah, quite literally the last good king to reign over Judah until the Lord Jesus. He came to the throne after two of the worst kings Judah had ever known. The temple was in disrepair and the people worshiped Baal and Asheroth. Even as a boy, Josiah walked in the ways of David, his ancestor. The renewal of the faith provided a time of great blessing, but the hope of God’s people was and remains not in an earthly ruler, but a heavenly King, strong enough to save and redeem us from sin and death.

**Hymn** “All Depends on Our Possessing” (*LSB* 732)

**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. Heavenly Father, Your Son has cleansed us with His precious blood, forgiven all our sin, and revived our spirits in hope. Look upon us in compassion, and restore to us the joy of our salvation, that we no more may suffer the lament of our souls in despair. Keep us, through the comfort of the Holy Spirit, from anxiety and uncertainty amid the trials and troubles of this mortal life, and deliver us into Your perfect peace on high; 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 34:1-3; 35:20-27

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images.

After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to meet him. But he sent envoys to him, saying, “What have we to do with each other, king of Judah? I am not coming against you this day, but against the house with which I am at war. And God has commanded me to hurry. Cease opposing God, who is with me, lest he destroy you.” Nevertheless, Josiah did not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight with him. He did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to fight in the plain of Megiddo. And the archers shot King Josiah. And the king said to his servants, “Take me away, for I am badly wounded.” So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in his second chariot and brought him to Jerusalem. And he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; and all the singing men and singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made these a rule in Israel; behold, they are written in the Laments. Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his good deeds according to what is written in the Law of the Lord, and his acts, first and last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THIRD READING** Luke 23:26-31

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hymn** “The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns” (*LSB* 532, tune of 437)

**SERMON *“Our Last Hope: Josiah”***

**OFFERING**

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

**PRAYERS**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacraments, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, ruler of all things and generous with mercy to all who call upon You, Your Son granted healing and relief to many who came to Him in their need. Mercifully come to the aid of all Your servants in their various needs, that in accord with Your will, they may be restored to health and given patience for the day of their trouble and hope at the last, until with a thankful heart they rejoice in Your presence with saints and angels in perfect healing; 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** “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (*LSB* 436)