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**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## 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.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

178 – We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died

#### Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

#### Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:5, 7-9; 2:2; Hebrews 4:16

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

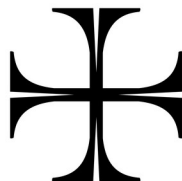
- P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
- C** **Glory 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.**

## ✠ Service of the Word ✠

### Psalm of the Day

Psalm 79:5-14

- P** How long, LORD? Will You be angry forever?
- C** **Will Your jealousy burn like fire?**
- P** Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You,
- C** **And on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.**
- P** For they have devoured Jacob,
- C** **And laid waste his dwelling place.**
- P** Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us,
- C** **For we have been brought very low.**
- P** Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name;
- C** **And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!**
- P** Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"
- C** **Let there be known among the nations in our sight The avenging of the blood of Your servants which has been shed.**
- P** Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You;
- C** **According to the greatness of Your power Preserve those who are appointed to die;**
- P** And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom
- C** **Their reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.**
- P** So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever;
- C** **We will show forth Your praise to all generations.**



Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. Then the soldiers of the governor led Jesus away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together and gathered around Him the whole garrison. And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him, clothing Him in purple. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and worshiped Him, mocking Him. They saluted Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head with it. And they struck Him with their hands.

When they had mocked Him, Pilate went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know I find no fault in Him." Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

Therefore when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." Therefore when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid; and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me, unless it had been given to you from above; therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the preparation day of the Passover; and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." And so Pilate delivered Jesus to their will, to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus' purple robe off Him, and put His own clothes on Him. They took Jesus, and led Him out to crucify Him, bearing His cross. Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming from the country. On him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. And a great multitude of

the people followed Him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children, for indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts which 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 in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?”

There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And they brought Him to the place called Calvary, in Hebrew Golgatha, which is the Place of a Skull. And when they had come there, they gave Him sour wine mingled with myrrh and gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink it.

## **Confession of Faith**

Luther’s Explanation of the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

## **Hymn**

518 (1-3, 7) – If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

## **Sermon Text**

2 Chronicles 34:1-3, 35:20-27

<sup>1</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. <sup>3</sup> For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images. <sup>20</sup> After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him. <sup>21</sup> But he sent messengers to him, saying, “What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from

meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you.”<sup>22</sup> Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.<sup>23</sup> And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, “Take me away, for I am severely wounded.”<sup>24</sup> His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.<sup>25</sup> Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments.<sup>26</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and his goodness, according to what was written in the Law of the LORD,<sup>27</sup> and his deeds from first to last, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.



*Sermon*

## Our Last Hope: Josiah

### Offertory

TLH 179 – On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

On my heart im - print Thine im - age, Bless-ed Je - sus,  
 King of Grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea-sures  
 Have no pow'r Thee to ef - face. This the su - per -  
 scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my Life, my  
 hope's Foun - da - tion, And my Glo - ry and Sal - va - tion.

## General Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

### Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

### Hymn

551 – Sun of My Soul, Thou Savior Dear

