Good Friday
April 7, 2023

During Lent, we have considered the good kings of Judah. Week after week we saw that their reigns have been superseded by the glorious reign of Jesus Christ, the Son of David. Each of those kings was a sinner, but insofar as they ruled with justice and led the people in righteousness, our great King, Jesus Christ, is their perfect fulfillment. Today, we will not consider one of the good kings of Judah. Instead, we turn to King Manasseh, the WORST. KING. EVER. Most of the kings in Chronicles are described as either following in the ways of David or abandoning them. We remarked specifically about Jehoram, who was said to follow the ways of wicked Ahab, his father-in-law. However, Manasseh gets special treatment. "He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel" (2 Chr 33:2). His deeds are not compared to David or Solomon. They are not even compared to the evil kings of Israel. Manasseh is compared to the pagan Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites (cf Josh 3:10). Judah under Manasseh returned to the state of wickedness, which prevailed before the conquest of Joshua and the planting of Israel in the Promised Land. And he compares poorly. "Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray, to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel."

Dale Scheiderer – Organist

"Good Friday: WORST. BEST. KING. EVER.: Manesseh" *- 2 Chronicles 33:1-20*

The congregation and pastor enter in silence.

Opening Versicles

P O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm 22

Psalm 22; antiphon: v. 1

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.
3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. 4 In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
5 To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
8 "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"
9 Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. 10 On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

[12]Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; [13]they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. [14]I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; [15]my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
[16]For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—[17]I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; [18]they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
[19]But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! [20]Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! [21]Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen! [22]I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: [23]You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
[24]For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.
[25]From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. [26]The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!
[27]All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. [28]For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
[29]All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.
[30]Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; [31]they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

Psalm 2

Psalm 2

[1] Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
[2] The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
[3] "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."
[4] He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. [5] Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, [6] "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
[7] I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. [8] Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. [9] You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
[10] Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. [11] Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. [12] Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 27

Psalm 27

[1] The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
[2] When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.
[3] Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
[4] One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. [5] For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
[6] And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
[7] Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! [8] You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." [9] Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!
[10] For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. [11] Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. [12] Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.
[13] I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
[14] Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Psalm 51 *Psalm 51*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
[3] For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
[5] Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
[6] Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
[7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
[8] Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
[9] Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
[10] Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
[11] Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
[12] Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. [13] Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
[14] Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
[15] O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
[16] For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
[17] The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
[18] Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
[19] then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

+ The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ +

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" *sts. 1-3* *LSB 450*

[1]Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. [2]And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. [3]They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. [4]Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." [5]So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" [6]When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." [7]The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." [8]When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. [9]He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. [10]So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" [11]Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." [12]From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." [13]So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. [14]Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" [15]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." [16]So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" *sts. 4-7* *LSB 450*

[16]So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, [17]and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. [18]There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. [19]Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." [20]Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. [21]So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" [22]Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." [23]When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, [24]so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things, [25]but standing by the cross of Jesus were his

mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. [26]When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" [27]Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. [28]After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." [29]A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. [30]When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. [31]Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. [32]So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. [33]But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. [34]But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. [35]He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. [36]For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." [37]And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced." [38]After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. [39]Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. [40]So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. [41]Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. [42]So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Presentation by Mark Moran, ***"Were You There?"***

Responsory

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.
C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Office Hymn **"O Perfect Life of Love"** *LSB 452*

Sermon: "Good Friday: WORST. BEST. KING. EVER.: Manasseh," - *2 Chronicles 33:1–20*

Prayers

P Lord, have mercy.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Christ, have mercy.
C **Christ, have mercy.**
P Lord, have mercy.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
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.**
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.
C **Amen.**
P Let us pray.
C **Amen.**

Closing of the Tomb & the Return of the Christ Candle.
The congregation leaves in silence and minimal light.

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