

529 Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus

- 1 Since our great High Priest, Christ Jesus,
Bears the name above all names,
Reigning Son of God, surpassing
Other titles, pow'rs and claims—
Since to heav'n our Lord has passed,
Let us hold our witness fast!
- 2 Since we have a priest who suffered,
Knowing weakness, tears, and pain,
Who like us was tried and tempted,
Unlike us, without a stain—
Since He shared our lowly place,
Let us boldly seek His grace.
- 3 Sacrifice and suff'ring over,
Now He sits at God's right hand,
Crowned with praise, no more an outcast,
His pre-eminence long-planned;
Such a great High Priest we have,
Strong to help, supreme to save.
- 4 Love's example, hope's attraction,
Faith's beginning and its end,
Pioneer of our salvation,
Mighty advocate and friend;
Jesus, high in glory raised,
Our ascended Lord be praised!

Text: Christopher M. Idle, 1938

Text: © 1973 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001274

Stand

Opening Versicles

Lent

LSB 260

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
- C** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.
- L** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,
- C** let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- L** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
- C** He was bruised for our iniquities.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- 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.

Old Testament Cantic

LSB 261

- C** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.
With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,
make known His deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that His name is exalted.”

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.
Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.
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.
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

Sit

Readings From Holy Scripture

Reading

2 Chronicles 26:1–5, 15b–21

L A reading from 2 Chronicles, the twenty-sixth chapter.

¹And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. ²He built Eloth and restored it to Judah, after the king slept with his fathers. ³Uzziah 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. ⁴And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. ⁵He 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.

¹⁵In Jerusalem he made engines, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

¹⁶But 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. ¹⁷But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the LORD who were men of valor, ¹⁸and 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." ¹⁹Then 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. ²⁰And 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. ²¹And 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms, hymns, or choral music may be sung between the readings.

Responsory

Lent

LSB 263

L We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

L We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Stand

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
 Honor your father and your mother.
 You shall not murder.
 You shall not commit adultery.
 You shall not steal.
 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
 You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey,
 or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**☩ 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.**

Holy Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

Sit

564 Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand

- 1 Christ sits at God’s right hand,
His saving work complete,
To reign till ev’ry foe will lie
Beneath His feet—
All that the Father planned,
The Son sought to fulfill,
When first He said, “Lord, here am I
To do Your will.”
- 2 Christ was that priest God swore,
Uniquely First and Last,
Who would in righteousness and love
Be unsurpassed:
“A priest forevermore,”
An oath God would not break,
“A priest within the order of
Melchizedek.”
- 3 Christ’s altar was the tree,
Where on the world’s behalf
He shed a blood, unlike the blood
Of goat or calf,
To seal God’s guarantee
Of grace that cannot fail;
With blood He entered for our good
Behind the veil.
- 4 What costly sacrifice
To cover human sin!
Who but Christ Jesus had the right
To enter in?
His blood, that sprinkled price,

So we might be assured
That our inheritance in light
Has been secured.

- 5 Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus' blood.
From hearts that are sincere,
Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God's faithful grace
That we confess.

- △ 6 All praise to Christ we bring,
Our Lord who intercedes,
Our great High Priest enthroned above
Who knows our needs;
And to the Father sing
Our songs of thankful praise,
Who with the Spirit reigns in love
For endless days.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Text: © 2002 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001274

Sermon

In Jesus's Name. Amen.

The words “Know Thyself” are inscribed in the temple of Apollo in Delphi, a temple of pagan prophecy in ancient Greece.” Traditional Greek wisdom considered that every man should know who he was. If you're a commoner, know that you are a commoner. If you're an aristocrat, know that you are an aristocrat. Know your privileges and obligations. Know your strengths and weaknesses. Perhaps most important to the Greeks, know that you are mortal. You are not a god, and you should not try to be a god. Know yourself.

Perhaps we would say, “Know your place.” This goes against the grain of our culture, which prizes being who we want to be without restrictions. But, with respect to God, we do well to know that He is God, and we are not.

King Uzziah was a descendant of David and a good king. “He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done” (26:4). Uzziah was the grandson of King Joash, about whom we spoke last week. Uzziah ascended the throne at sixteen and reigned fifty-two years, one of the longest reigns. He defeated the Philistines on the coast and the Arabians in the desert. His fame reached the border of Egypt. As usual, this was not because of his greatness. “As long as [Uzziah] sought the Lord, God made him prosper” (26:5).

The reign of King Uzziah is defined by strength. He broke down the wall of Gath, the city from which Goliath had come. Ancient enemies like the Ammonites paid tribute to him. He fortified Jerusalem with high-tech weapons that could shoot arrows and stones from towers. He expanded the kingdom and enriched Judah. Again, Scripture says “his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong” (26:15).

Yes, Uzziah was a strong king—but he wasn't content being king. He wanted to be a priest. Unfortunately, King Uzziah did not heed the maxim, “know thyself.” He let pride grow inside of him. His pride led to his destruction as he tried to be what he wasn't, a priest. Uzziah entered the Holy Place in the temple to burn incense. Only the priests went there; only the sons of Aaron offered incense. And, even Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, had burned unauthorized incense and paid with their lives.

But Uzziah was proud, believing in his strength above all else, and boldly entered the temple to burn incense. Azariah the high priest and eighty other priests tried to stop him. They said, “It is not for you. . . . Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the Lord God” (26:18). King Uzziah reacted in anger. Uzziah was king. No one would tell him what he could or couldn't do! Filled with pride, he believed he was the supreme ruler. He was famous around the world, and he was strong. That, however, didn't make Uzziah a priest. Offering incense in the Holy Place was not his place.

The Lord punished Uzziah with leprosy. Right on his face, so the result of his sin could be seen. This wasn't simply

a matter of sickness. Lepers were ritually unclean, “excluded from the house of the Lord” (26:21). Lepers had to be separated from society to prevent the spread of this terrible, flesh-eating disease. So, Uzziah could no longer be king. His son, Jotham, governed the people of the land. King Uzziah’s strength and fame didn’t matter. Even in death, when he was buried in the kings’ burial field, Uzziah was separated from his fathers according to Levitical law (cf Lev 13:46). His whole identity was changed so that his epitaph is, “He is a leper” (26:23).

King Uzziah was a strong king. But not only could his strength not save his people; it couldn’t even save him. Such is the strength of kings. If we are to follow a king who brings salvation, he will have to be a stronger king than Uzziah.

Jesus, the Son of Uzziah, is our Messiah and strong king. His strength isn’t political. Nor was His strength in developing new armaments. Jesus’ strength was in freeing people from sin, death and the devil. Jesus forgave the sins of men and He taught with authority and power, not like the religious leaders.

The Son of God was not filled with pride. Although the eternal Word was in the form of God, he emptied himself to be born of a virgin in the likeness of men. He was found humble and riding on a donkey as the crowds chanted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” This Son of David humbled himself in obedience to his Father, even to death on a cross. Far from pride, Jesus suffered scorn and shame, spitting and mocking from sinners, willingly laying down His life for your sins.

Jesus, the Son of Uzziah, is your humble priest, prophet, and king. As priest, Jesus offered Himself as the perfect, all-availing sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. He fulfilled the Law by living a perfect life and dying not because of His sin, but yours. And Jesus, the great High Priest, now intercedes for you before the Father.

As the Son of Uzziah hung on the cross, he endured worse isolation than a leper. Jesus became sin and bore your sin in his body—all the uncleanness of your flesh. Jesus was forsaken, separated from His Father, God Almighty, in death. The chief priests and rulers of the Judeans saw weakness. Yet this was not weakness, but strength of Jesus’ humble purpose. There never was strength like our Lord bearing the weight of the world’s sin on his striped back to defeat the devil’s evil schemes. Jesus humbly defeated evil, breaking the devil’s power. On the cross, Jesus revealed the Father’s Plan of Salvation and the glory of God.

As the King of the Judeans hung on the cross, the curtain of the temple tore. The Holy Place lay open to all who would follow the Son and Lord of David. Indeed, when our High Priest offered his perfect sacrifice, God highly exalted Jesus above the heavens, where Jesus sat down at the right hand of God. There the Son of David, David’s Lord and your Lord, intercedes for you, offering perfect prayers sweeter than any incense on earth. By his blood, you therefore have confidence to enter the holy places.

What is your place? Are you a king? Are you a priest? What do others know you as? Well, certainly not an Old Testament priest. You may not be proud, strong or be famous. But in Christ, you are a chosen race and a royal priesthood, set free by Jesus’s blood and made a beloved child of God the Father. The King of Kings has made you a place with Jesus in the kingdom of heaven. Your place is in the presence of God, praying, praising and giving thanks for all His Blessings. Boldly draw near to the throne of grace and receive mercy in every need. Amen.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Offering

Stand

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- L** For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day

- L** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

- L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Evening Prayer

- C** **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.**

Blessing

Benedicamus

LSB 267

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 267

- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
C **Amen.**

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

- △ 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
 Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
 Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.