

438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*sts. 1–2*

- 1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
“All this I gladly suffer.”
- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,
The Lamb of God, our Savior,
Whom God the Father chose to send
To gain for us His favor.
“Go forth, My Son,” the Father said,
“And free My children from their dread
Of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Your passion they will share
The fruit of Your salvation.”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
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*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 Canticle*LSB 261*

- C** **The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**
- L** 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.”
- C** **The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**
- L** 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.
- C** **The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

*Sit***Readings From Holy Scripture****Reading***2 Chronicles 17:1–6*

- L** A reading from 2 Chronicles, the seventeenth chapter.

¹Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place and strengthened himself against Israel. ²He placed forces in all the fortified cities of Judah and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim that Asa his father had captured. ³The LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals, ⁴but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the practices of Israel. ⁵Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand. And all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor. ⁶His heart was courageous in the ways of the LORD. And furthermore, he took the high places and the Asherim out of Judah.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

2 Chronicles 18:1–3; 19:1–7

L A reading from 2 Chronicles, the eighteenth chapter.

¹Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, and he made a marriage alliance with Ahab. ²After some years he went down to Ahab in Samaria. And Ahab killed an abundance of sheep and oxen for him and for the people who were with him, and induced him to go up against Ramoth-gilead. ³Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, “Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead?” He answered him, “I am as you are, my people as your people. We will be with you in the war.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

2 Chronicles 19:1–7

¹Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned in safety to his house in Jerusalem. ²But Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD. ³Nevertheless, some good is found in you, for you destroyed the Asherahs out of the land, and have set your heart to seek God.”

⁴Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem. And he went out again among the people, from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers. ⁵He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, ⁶and said to the judges, “Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the LORD. He is with you in giving judgment. ⁷Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes.”

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.

The First Article

Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

CI believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

The Second Article

Redemption

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.

What does this mean?

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

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

The Third Article

Sanctification

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.

What does this mean?

☐ I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

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.**

Sit

644 The Church's One Foundation

sts. 1-5

1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;

- With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.
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Sermon

In Jesus Name. Amen.

It is said “Politics makes strange bedfellows”. People of different perspectives often must work together to achieve political goals, often people whose views and objectives don’t align or may even conflict. Sadly, politics aren’t just in Washington, DC. The same is true of businesses, especially in Defense Contracting. Alliances happen in every arena of life. Sometimes one must compromise on one objective or belief to accomplish another. Life can be a series of compromises. The question always is, what and how much is compromised?

Today we consider Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, whom we considered last week. As we heard, Jehoshaphat “walked in the earlier ways of his father David” and “sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the practices of Israel” (17:3–4). Moreover, Jehoshaphat “had great riches and honor. His heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord” (17:5–6).

At the beginning of Jehoshaphat’s reign, the new king of Judah fortified the northern border with Israel. Israel was still at war against the Syrians whom Asa had paid to attack Israel to eliminate efforts to block traffic and trade at Ramah. . Judah had peace; those surrounding Judah feared Judah and paid tribute.

Jehoshaphat saw an opportunity to cement peace with Israel’s new king, Ahab. “Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, and he made a *marriage alliance* with Ahab” (18:1). He gave his son Jehoram in marriage to King Ahab’s daughter Athaliah.

Marriage alliances were often the best way to grow the kingdom. First, it was less likely King Ahab of Israel would attack Judah since his own daughter was in line to be queen. Perhaps the kingdoms could be reunited. Sounds like a good move, right? It worked for countless other kingdoms. Why not here? What a great idea!

But Jehoshaphat and Ahab were strange bedfellows. Both were kings of God’s people with a common culture and language. But they were also very different. Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, worshipped Baal and wasn’t happy when the prophet Elijah embarrassed and killed the priests of Baal. Jezebel was out to get Elijah. Jezebel also arranged to acquire Naboth’s vineyard deceitfully by accusing Naboth of cursing God and King Ahab so that he would be put to death and the pouty King Ahab could have Naboth’s vineyard. Ahab and Jezebel

worshiped idols and did all kinds of evil. And now, by arranging a marriage alliance, Jehoshaphat and Ahab were in bed together—at least the prince and princess were.

“After some years [Jehoshaphat] went down to Ahab in Samaria. And Ahab killed an abundance of sheep and oxen for him and for the people who were with him” (18:2). What a welcome! Jehoshaphat goes to visit his son’s-in-laws, and it’s party time! King Ahab has an idea of his own. King Ahab is fighting Syria and wants Judah to join the fight. That’s what allies are for, right?

So, Jehoshaphat says, “I am as you are, my people as your people. We will be with you in the war” (18:3). Thus, Judah and Israel have been joined as one—bedfellows. The great irony is that they will fight Ben-hadad of Syria, whom Asa, Jehoshaphat’s father, had paid to attack Israel in the first place! So now Judah is going to fight against the mercenaries Judah hired! How times have changed! Jehoshaphat thought he was making peace but ends up in a war. That’s what happens when you make alliances with men like King Ahab.

But there’s more. Ahab’s real plan was to get Jehoshaphat killed. Ahab knew that Ben-hadad, the Syrian king, would try to kill him and thus end the war quickly. So, Ahab disguised himself as an ordinary soldier and told Jehoshaphat, “You wear your robes,” so he would look like the king (18:29). With allies like that, who needs enemies?

In the end, the plot didn’t work. Ahab was killed, and his blood ended up mixed with water from a public pool. Dogs licked it up; prostitutes washed themselves in it (1 Ki 22:38). Jehoshaphat, on the other hand, would repent and be one of the great kings of Judah. However, the contamination of Judah by marriage to a daughter of Ahab had a cost.

Jehoshaphat compromised Judah’s future. When Jehoram becomes king, his wife Athaliah, the daughter of Jezebel, brings Jezebel’s idolatry to Judah. Jehoram “walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord” (21:6). Judah suffered terribly under the reign of the bad king Jehoram—and his wife! Jehoshaphat was indeed one of the great kings of Judah, but he was seduced by the allure of this marriage alliance with Israel.

This could have destroyed the house of David. “Yet the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and since he had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever” (21:7). From 2 Timothy: “If we are faithless, [God] remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself” (2 Tim 2:13). God remains true to his people despite their being beguiled into wickedness and idolatry.

Jehoshaphat was a good king of Judah, but we need the better King. We need the perfect King who will not be lured away—whose commitment to right is stronger than his desire for alliances. We need the Son of Jehoshaphat, who was uncompromising in his love for us. Who refused to bow down and worship the devil to gain the kingdoms of the world. Who refused to bend to the Pharisees’ demands to follow their traditions rather than God’s commands. Who indeed was not swayed by appearances but truly taught the way of God. Who would rather go alone to the cross than abandon his mission of our salvation. Whose alliance is to his own people, even though his own did not receive him.

Truly, we need the Son of David, who would remain faithful to his faithless bride. Who would ransom us, those often seek other gods, from the power of Sheol and redeem us from death (Hos 13:14). Whose blood would wash his Church white as snow and present her to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or blemish by the washing of water with the word (Eph 5:26–27).

And yet the Son of God did even more than simply stand by us when we were faithless. He chose his people despite their failings. We read in Hosea that he allures even us, his faithless bride. He brings us into the wilderness and speaks tenderly to us (Hos 2:14). He says, “You are my people,” and shows mercy to us.

The Church and her Lord and Husband, Jesus Christ, are certainly strange bedfellows. We are by nature sinful and unclean. We look longingly at other gods, fascinated by what they offer. We have proven ourselves to be easily seduced by pleasures and willing even to betray our beloved when we feel pressured. And yet, Jesus loves his people and gives himself up for them. He brings us back to himself. He has joined himself to us and not even death can part us from Him.

Our life is found in Jesus Christ’s one-sided marriage alliance to us.

We are his unworthy bride. He is our faithful Husband who loves and cherishes us. This promise he has made on his own person, giving us the seal of Baptism. He has no split allegiances. He is faithful when we are not. And for this we offer Jesus, the Son of David and Jehoshaphat, our whole hearts in faith and worship. Amen.

In Jesus Name. Amen.

Stand

Offering 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 O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Hymn

sts. 3–4

3 “Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
 I’ll bear what You command Me.
 My will conforms to Your decree,
 I’ll do what You have asked Me.”
 O wondrous Love, what have You done!
 The Father offers up His Son,
 Desiring our salvation.
 O Love, how strong You are to save!
 You lay the One into the grave
 Who built the earth’s foundation.

4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see
 And taste Your kingdom’s pleasure,
 Your blood my royal robe shall be,
 My joy beyond all measure!
 When I appear before Your throne,
 Your righteousness shall be my crown;
 With these I need not hide me.

And there, in garments richly wrought,
As Your own bride shall we be brought
To stand in joy beside You.

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