

**Sun., Sept. 26**

Memory Verse: "At the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." -  
Philippians 2:10-11

Message: "A New King!"

Text: "'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will raise up from David's line a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.'" -  
-Jeremiah 23:5

Reading of Scripture: Isaiah 45:16-25

Sermon Scripture: Psalm 2:1-11

Blurb: Jesus is our King, and we are His subjects! This means that we have to change how we think about Jesus and how we treat Him. Only our King can give us victory over the powers that choke us. This Sunday we learn what it means to pledge our allegiance to Jesus as our King!

Preparation: Have heart-shaped sticky notes, one in each bulletin.

Have four offering plates across the front of the church, placed on palm branches.

Have a closing song about surrendering to Jesus.

Videos:

Bumper Video

Video Clip: The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Aslan's Camp  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSJyNvOwiX8> (3:51 minutes, stop at 3:25)

**[Recorded Worship Beginning]**

**WELCOME** -Pastor Andrew

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor Andrew

"At the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." -Philippians 2:10-11

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*God of Creation*

*I Surrender All*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Live Worship Beginning]**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Celebrate* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

-Everyone will need a heart-shaped post-it note in the bulletins.

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor David

“At the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” -Philippians 2:10-11

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*Covenant Song*

*God of Creation*

*Forever Holy*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Both Recorded & Live Worship]****READING OF SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 45:16-25 -Reader: ?

In Isaiah 45, God speaks, declaring how different He is than false idols. It is God who has created everything, who saves Israel, and who is almighty. Everyone will come to know this. Isaiah 45:16-25,

16 They will all be shamed and disgraced;

the makers of idols will end up disgraced together.

17 Israel has been saved by the Lord of everlasting salvation.

You won't be shamed, and you won't be disgraced forever and always.

18 For this is what the Lord said, who created the heavens,

who is God, who formed the earth and made it,

who established it, who didn't create it a wasteland but formed it as a habitation:

I, the Lord, and none other!

19 I didn't speak in secret or in some land of darkness;

I didn't say to the offspring of Jacob, "Seek me in chaos."

I am the Lord, the one who speaks truth, who announces what is correct.

20 Gather and come, draw near together, fugitives of the nations!

Those who carry their wooden idols don't know;

those who pray to a god who won't save.

21 Announce! Approach! Confer together!

Who proclaimed this from the beginning, announced it from long ago?

Wasn't it I, the Lord?

There's no other God except me, a righteous God and a savior;

there's none besides me!

22 Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth,

for I am God, and there's no other.

23 I have sworn a solemn pledge;

a word has left my mouth; it is reliable and won't fail.

Surely every knee will bow and every tongue will confess;

24 they will say, "Righteousness and strength come only from the Lord.

All who are angry with him will come to shame.

25 All the Israelites will be victorious and rejoice."

**PRAYERS:** Prayers of Praise and Adoration to God as our King -Pastor David  
(Using the Great Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer from the *UMH*, pages 13-14)

**[IN-PERSON ONLY] GENERATIONAL BRIDGE:** Lemuel the Lion -Pastor Andrew & Vicky Keintz

**MESSAGE: King of Kings (Narnia) #3: "A New King!"**

### **BUMPER VIDEO**

**PP#1:** King of Kings: A New King!

“The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will raise up from David’s line a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.’”  
-Jeremiah 23:5

King of Kings: A New King! Jeremiah 23:5 “The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will raise up from David’s line a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.’”

We’re using C.S. Lewis’ *Chronicles of Narnia* to help us understand how Jesus is a King, how Jesus is *our king*, and therefore how we are to relate to Him. We often think of Jesus as our Savior, who gave Himself as a sacrifice on the cross for our salvation. We think of Jesus as our Teacher who we learn from how to find God and live abundantly. We think of Jesus as the One we follow, we are His disciples. But the Bible also describes Jesus the Messiah (or Savior) as the Eternal King who sits on David’s throne, “The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.” What does that mean for us? Is that important? If so, what do we do with that?

**PP#2:** King of Kings: A New King!

1. God is sending a Messiah (Savior)

Well, two weeks ago we learned that the situation in Narnia was that it was “always winter, but never Christmas.” This also describes our reality—our lives—without God. The cold, dark grip of selfishness, of violence, of anger, bitterness, of hopelessness, of powers that work to tear us down, all describe our world and our lives as we struggle to trudge through them on our own.

But last week in the Narnia world we heard the beavers say that Aslan was on the move. In the midst of winter, there was hope! There was a greater power at work, pushing back the winter, challenging the dark powers, and bringing new life. And this also describes our reality, too, actually. The Bible proclaims that God is up to something. God is working a plan. We are not left alone in our winter. The evil powers of our world are not left unchecked. The problems, the disasters, the chaos, the sickness, the evil: will not win!

All through the Scriptures there is a promise of restoration, of redemption, of salvation, of deliverance. And this good news is for all fronts! It’s hope for our current reality, our present situation...with Covid, with hurricanes, with wars, with anxiety, with racial struggles. It is hope for the direction of our planet: for the human race and the unfolding history of the world. And it is hope for your life right now, with whatever you are facing this week, and the purpose for your life.

This Hope is a person, a Messiah. The word “messiah” is a Hebrew word that is translated into Greek as “Christ.” These words are translated into English as “savior.” Since the beginning of “the troubles”—and by that I mean when people began sinning and operating selfishly and going

against what God wanted, which started with the very first humans, right?, with Eve and Adam—since the beginning of “the troubles,” God had promised help. God promised to come and save us from our sin, to push back the darkness and to restore us back to right relationship with Him—a healing relationship, a hope-filled relationship, a life-giving relationship. God promised: I will not leave you alone. I will send help. I will raise up a Messiah, a Savior. In fact, *I myself* am coming to you. This person, this Savior, is Emmanuel, meaning “God with us.”

**PP#3: King of Kings: A New King!**

1. God is sending a Messiah (Savior)
2. The Messiah (Savior) is a king

Now, in the Old Testament, God uses royal imagery to explain this Messiah. Yes, this Messiah is a humble person; yes, who comes to help us; true, and very important that we understand this. But this Messiah, we need to know, *too*, is also a powerful ruler, a mighty king, a wielder of authority, a commander of power. And this is *also* very important! You see, we face powers and rulers and authorities all over the place in this life. We are *subject* to overwhelming powers, right? There are the powers of fallen nature, with disasters and storms, of diseases and aging. There are the powers of hate and violence, of abuse and oppression. There are inner powers of selfishness, of bitterness, of anger, of resentment. Our lives—our world—are all filled with mighty powers that assault us and defeat us on the right and on the left...everywhere!

We look around—and within!—at the raging powers that overwhelm us, and we cry out: where is our hope? Who can defeat such power?

We are like the siblings in Narnia, when their brother was duped to follow the evil queen. He was lost into her clutches, and the kids ask, “Who is powerful enough to help us against such a strong, ruling, evil power?”

The answer was: the good king Aslan has that kind of power! Go to him for help!

**PP#4: Revelation 5:1-5**

1 Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one seated on the throne. It had writing on the front and the back, and it was sealed with seven seals. 2 I saw a powerful angel, who proclaimed in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or look inside it. 4 So I began to weep and weep, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look inside it. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Don’t weep. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has emerged victorious so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

In Revelation 5, the 5<sup>th</sup> scroll is bound by a power—a seal—too strong for any creature to open. And the angel cries out, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” (5:2) And verse 3 says, “But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or look inside it.” Verse 4, “So I began to weep and weep....” Here it names our experience when we hear the diagnosis of cancer, or dementia, or shootings, or racism, or rape, or hurricanes. They are just so big, so powerful! We cannot fix it, or even make a difference! All we can do is weep and weep.

But then, the thundering voice from heaven breaks in. “Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has emerged victorious so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

There is one more powerful than the evil queen. There is a power stronger than powers of this world. There is a mighty hope who can defeat the darkness within.

This Messiah, this Savior, is *a King*! He wields a mightier power! He possesses a more vast authority! His command is bigger than whatever it is we are facing. He is “The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David.” The setting in Revelation 5 is the throne room of heaven. And the voice booms out: There is a king, a lion, a savior!

**PP#5:** *Image from The Lion King of all the animals bowing before the lion king*

The lion is the *king of the jungle*, right? It is the mightiest of beasts. It is the top predator. In Disney’s animated classic *The Lion King* all the other animals bow before the lion king, right?

**PP#6:** Genesis 49

8 Judah, you are the one your brothers will honor;  
     your hand will be on the neck of your enemies;  
     your father’s sons will bow down to you.

9 Judah is a lion’s cub;  
     from the prey, my son, you rise up.

He lies down and crouches like a lion;  
     like a lioness—who dares disturb him?

10 The scepter won’t depart from Judah,  
     nor the ruler’s staff from among his banners.  
 Gifts will be brought to him; people will obey him.

Well, the Old Testament goes back to this image from nature in understanding the kings of Israel. When Jacob—also called Israel—blesses his 12 sons, he proclaims that his third son, Judah (and *not* his oldest son, Reuben), will be the royal line, and from Judah will come the kings of Israel.

In Genesis 49, Jacob describes Judah’s royal line as “a lion’s cub,” “a crouching lion,” “a lioness.” And verse 10, “The scepter won’t depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from among his banners....” Notice that the ruling scepter will *never depart* from these kings, these lions.

**PP#7:** Jeremiah 23:5 “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will raise up from David’s line a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.’”

Philippians 2:9-11 “Therefore, God highly honored Him and gave Him a name above all names, so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

The Messiah is linked to the royal line of Israel, of Judah. The earthly kings may have started the rule on earth, but there is One coming who will be in the royal line—in the line of King David—who will rule forever. The coming Messiah is a king! Jeremiah prophesied in 23:5, “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will raise up from David’s line a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.’”

And the Messiah’s great sacrifice—Jesus’ death on the cross—earns for Him the respect, the honor, the glory of eternal praise and adoration. Philippians 2:9-11 says, “Therefore, God highly

honored Him and gave Him a name above all names, so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord....” This parallels back to the passage from Isaiah, right? Did that trigger for you? Isaiah 45:23, “Surely every knee will bow and every tongue will confess” that righteousness and salvation comes only from our God.

So, we are trapped under oppressive powers too strong for us to defeat. But we are not left on our own. Our God Himself shows up to help us. He comes as a mighty king, a mighty lion, with even greater power and authority able to defeat whatever powers we face. Jesus, when commissioning the disciples by washing their feet, it says in John 13:3, “Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything.” And at the Great Commission, Jesus proclaims, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me” (Matt. 28:18). Jesus is the Messiah and has total authority!

**PP#8:** Psalm 2

- 1 Why do the nations rant? Why do the peoples rave uselessly?
- 2 The earth’s rulers take their stand; the leaders scheme together against the Lord and against His anointed one.
- 3 “Come!” they say. “We will tear off their ropes and throw off their chains!”
- 4 The one who rules in heaven laughs; my Lord makes fun of them.
- 5 But then God speaks to them angrily; then He terrifies them with His fury:
- 6 “I hereby appoint my king on Zion, my holy mountain!”

Turn to Psalm 2. This is one of two psalms that introduce the whole book of psalms. And it gives the general order of things as they ought to be, according to God’s intention. It was used for when the kings of Israel were crowned. But everyone knew that this psalm was also about the coming Messiah, who would be a king from Israel’s royal line. As we go through it, see how the earthly understanding of kingship is used to understand the higher power of God’s Messiah.

Starting at the beginning: “1 Why do the nations rant? Why do the peoples rave uselessly? 2 The earth’s rulers take their stand; the leaders scheme together against the Lord and against His anointed one.” So, the earth’s powers are described as kings, who rage against God’s anointed. God’s anointed means both the actual king being crowned, but also, on a higher level, the coming Messiah who will fulfill the monarchy. So, we today think of Jesus when hearing this. Verse 3, “‘Come!’ they say [the earthly kings]. ‘We will tear off their ropes [of God’s authority] and throw off their chains!’” The world’s powers do not want to obey God’s intentions and authority. But, verse 4, “The one who rules in heaven laughs; my Lord makes fun of them. 5 But then God speaks to them angrily; then He terrifies them with His fury: 6 ‘I hereby appoint my king on Zion, my holy mountain!’”

**PP#9:** Psalm 2

- 7 I will announce the Lord’s decision:  
He said to me, “You are my son, today I have become your father.
  - 8 Just ask me, and I will make the nations your possession;  
the far corners of the earth will be your property.
  - 9 You will smash them with an iron rod; you will shatter them like a pottery jar.”
  - 10 So kings, wise up! Be warned, you rulers of the earth!
  - 11 Serve the Lord reverently–trembling, 12 kiss His feet  
or else He will become angry, and your way will be destroyed  
because His anger ignites in an instant.
- But all who take refuge in the Lord are truly happy!

Then, in verse 7, the anointed speaks up. “7 I will announce the Lord’s decision: He said to me, ‘You are my son, today I have become your father.’ 8 Just ask me, and I will make the nations your possession; the far corners of the earth will be your property. 9 You will smash them with an iron rod; you will shatter them like a pottery jar.”

In the Old Testament, the relationship between the king and the subject was also described as like the relationship between a parent and child. The kings of Israel were understood as God’s sons on the throne, and therefore they were supposed to rule by God’s laws. But in Jesus, that becomes literally true, for King Jesus is truly the son of God. But hang on to this idea, for it also affects who we understand we are to Jesus. We’ll come back to that. Just see how in verses 8-9 King Jesus has the power to defeat all the world’s powers.

Verse 10 then addresses to the authorities of earth—including you and me! “10 So kings, wise up! Be warned, you rulers of the earth! 11 Serve the Lord reverently—trembling, 12 kiss His feet or else He will become angry, and your way will be destroyed because His anger ignites in an instant. But all who take refuge in the Lord are truly happy!”

Ah, here is our application for how we are to live as Jesus is our king. What does it mean to serve the Lord reverently? Trembling? Kissing His feet? Treating Him as powerful?

**PP#10:** *Image from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe of Aslan in front of his tent*

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis makes King Aslan a mighty lion. The children first hear about him from the beavers. Remember last week, they are the ones who say “Aslan is on the move?” In the book is the full conversation. The children, in response, ask, “Who is Aslan?... Is he a man?” “Aslan a man!” said Mr. Beaver sternly. ‘Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-beyond-the-Sea. Don’t you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion.’”

Susan admits, “I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.” Mrs. Beaver responds, “That you will, dearie, and no mistake, if there’s anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they’re either braver than most or else just silly.”

When the children finally get to meet Aslan, it’s when they find him at the camp of the faithful Narnians gathering to support him. C.S. Lewis frames the command of King Aslan as like a medieval royal court. Now, this may not be our current lived reality, right?, and something we only think about in fairy tales. But I want to show you a clip from the movie when the three siblings come to meet the King. As you watch this clip, watch for how the camp is laid out, and how the Narnians all treat their king. Think about how this might help you think about Jesus. Have a look.

**Video Clip:** The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Aslan's Camp  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSJyNvOwiX8> (3:51 minutes, stop at 3:25)

**PP#11:** King of Kings: A New King!

1. God is sending a Messiah (Savior)
2. The Messiah (Savior) is a king
3. We are His subjects

Jesus is *the* King, and Jesus is *our* King!

Part of our struggle with Jesus, even with God, is that we don’t treat Him as a powerful King! We think of God as a friendly parent or grandparent who always loves us, and we think of Jesus as

a friend and brother. Now this is true, but our relationship changes when we also include a fuller understanding of Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, mighty and powerful, awesome and fearsome. In the movie, the characters—particularly Lucy—all bow before Aslan, revere and honor him, see him wield great power and fight with awesome might, while also loving him, hugging him, and kissing him. This is more of how the Bible describes our Jesus.

Loving God, loving Jesus, means feeling close to Him, while also having trembling knees that collapse so we kneel down before Him. This is what it means when the Bible says to fear the Lord.

Can you envision someone like this? Perhaps it was a parent or grandparent, a coach, a teacher, a boss...someone whom you loved dearly, and who loved you back—who always had your best interest in mind, but who also held great power over you, demanded compliance, and so also held your respect? This is more of how the Bible describes Jesus.

We as modern Americans struggle to live daily lives in reverence to Jesus, giving Him the respect to simply submit to His rule in our lives trusting He has our best interest in mind. We want to push against His way of life, His authority. We demand to understand first, and obey second. But there is something good in having quaking knees before Jesus!

**PP#12:** Jesus is our King and we are His subjects:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| -God is your Father; you are His child | -We pledge our allegiance          |
| -Jesus is a mighty Lion                | -We surrender our lives to Him     |
| -Jesus is awesome and powerful         | -We quickly obey His every command |
| -Jesus is our only hope                | -We pledge our service             |
| -Only Jesus can save us                | -We humbly seek His help           |

**<This is what it means to love Him!>**

Jesus is our King, and we are His subjects. Today, I want to leave us right here for a while. I'm not going to move past this so we gloss over what this means. Jesus is our King and we are His subjects. It may be helpful to imagine Jesus more of a mighty lion, fearsome and powerful.

Now, being God's subject does mean, like in Psalm 2, that we claim God is our Father, and that we are His children. We have a privileged position with our God. But we must still understand God as awesome and powerful. I want us this week to imagine us more like the children coming to Aslan's camp. Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. We come humbly seeking help. Only Aslan can free their brother from the evil queen. Only our King Jesus can free us from the evil that binds us.

Jesus is our King and we are His subjects. We come with trembling knees, knees that quickly fold in kneeling. We come humbly asking for help, knowing that only His help can save us. We pledge our allegiance, we surrender our lives to Him, we promise to quickly obey His every command. He is our Lord. We pledge our service, we revere Him. We love Him.

It is only then that we have full access to His victory in our lives.

*[Hold up heart-shaped sticky note.]*

In your bulletins today is a heart-shaped sticky note. Let's use them to show our commitment to Jesus. If you want, you can write your name on your heart, or you can leave it blank. During the closing song, or at the end of the service, or when you are ready to leave today, as a sign of your pledge of submission to King Jesus, come and give your heart sticker in the offering plates. When you place it in the offering plate, you can proclaim, "Long live King Jesus!" or "Hosanna King Jesus!" or something like that. We have four different plates up here across the front of the church.



They all face the cross, which reminds us of the kind of King we serve. But at some point, during the song or afterwards, if you want, come up and give your heart-shaped notes to Jesus, and proclaim your allegiance to Him. If you are able, and want to, you can even kneel down as you do it...or if you prefer you can bow or do whatever shows deference for you. We do it not in any organized way, but as you feel led by the Holy Spirit.

We pledge our lives today, and we commit this week to see Jesus as our mighty King.

Long live King Jesus!

Amen.

**[IN-PERSON WORSHIP ONLY] CLOSING SONG: *I Surrender All* -Sanctify**

**OFFERING:** -Pastor David

-Give of your monies to God's work through this church. You can give in person, mail it in, drop it off or, most conveniently, you can make an electronic transfer or a debit card payment on the church website or by using the "square" on the bulletin.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Pastor David

After worship: mission trip meeting, upstairs blue room

Next Sunday's message: King of Kings: A Dangerous King

Wednesday night: Echo & Youth Group

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

"At the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." -Philippians 2:10-11

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David