

**Sun., Sept. Oct. 3** - HC, World Communion Sunday

Prep: World Communion Sunday (Pastor Andrew leads Holy Communion)

Memory Verse: 1 Chronicles 16:34 "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!"

Message: King of Kings: A Dangerous King!

Text: Hebrews 10:31 "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Sermon Scripture and Reading of Scripture: Revelation 4:1-11 (Note: *After* the message.)

Blurb: This Sunday we celebrate World Communion Sunday. We proclaim that Jesus is King of the whole earth, and that His Kingdom extends over the entire world. As King of Kings, Jesus is dangerous: to evil (for Jesus defeats evil), but also to us! He does not leave us as we are, but the Lord of our lives, He calls us to change and grow as He desires.

Videos:

**Bumper Video**

**Video Clip #1:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwEke2WGgi8> (Begin at 0:18 and end at 1:20)  
The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Aslan Meets Jadis

**Video Clip #2:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwEke2WGgi8> (Begin at 2:30 and end at 3:20)  
The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Aslan Meets Jadis

**Video Clip #3:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zK7hyhZOQmw> (Begin at 0:40 and end at 2:43)  
The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Sir Peter

**[Recorded Worship Beginning]**

**WELCOME** -Pastor Andrew

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor Andrew

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!" -1 Chronicles 16:34

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*His Mercy Is More*

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Live Worship Beginning]**

**GATHERING SONG:** *His Mercy Is More* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

Holy Communion - Open communion, individual cups

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor David

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!" -1 Chronicles 16:34

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify***He Reigns**Surrounded (Fight My Battles)**Is He Worthy?*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Both Recorded & Live Worship]****MESSAGE: King of Kings (Narnia) #4: “A Dangerous King!”****BUMPER VIDEO****PP#1: King of Kings: A Dangerous King!**

“It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” -Hebrews 10:31

King of Kings: A Dangerous King! Hebrews 10:31, “It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

**PP#2: Image of Aslan roaring**

In the *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the children first hear about Aslan from the beavers. The children are curious: who is this Aslan? The beavers are shocked that they do not know.

Let me **read you a bit from the book (page 146)**. Mr. Beaver responds, “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.”

“‘Ooh!’ said Susan. ‘I’d thought he was a man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.’

“‘That you will, dearie, and no mistake,’ said Mrs. Beaver; ‘if there’s anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they’re either braver than most or else just silly.’

“‘Then he isn’t safe?’ said Lucy.

“‘Safe?’ said Mr. Beaver; ‘don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.’”

**PP#3: Image from the movie of Aslan attacking Queen Jadis**

We’re on a journey this fall to understand how Jesus is King of kings. The Bible calls Jesus the “Lion of the tribe of Judah.” Lions are terrifying: they’re powerful, fearsome, and dangerous. At a zoo one time I saw a male lion suddenly turn and rush towards the fence separating him from the people. Everyone...every single person...dropped their drinks and popcorn and ran away screaming. Kids—and some adults—started crying. Some of us needed new underwear! Even though we knew we were perfectly safe behind the fence, seeing that fearsome lion charge gave us all knocking knees!

In Narnia, only Aslan powerful enough to defeat the evil Queen Jadis, the evil white witch. In the movie released by Walden and Disney, they portray the scene of the evil queen coming to retrieve the boy Edmund, who, as a traitor, belongs to her. She comes into Aslan’s camp, and feels so sure of herself that she dares come before Alan to claim her right. I want you to take a look at

a couple of clips from this scene. Watch how Jadis, even though self-righteous, is still very, very nervous in front of King Aslan. Take a look at this first clip.

**Video Clip #1:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwEke2WGgi8> (Begin at 0:18 and end at 1:20)  
The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Aslan Meets Jadis

So, Aslan roars at the witch, telling her not to quote the magic to him...he was there when it was all written! Well, Aslan then calls the witch into a private negotiation. When they come out, he announces that she has released her claim on the boy. The witch—the queen of lies herself—then dares to question his word. Watch how Aslan responds.

**Video Clip #2:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwEke2WGgi8> (Begin at 2:30 and end at 3:20)  
The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Aslan Meets Jadis

That was awesome! She's defiant, but his mighty roar knocks her down.

The Bible describes Jesus as a mighty King, the only one who is able to defeat evil, to defeat even death itself. So, evil fears Jesus, just like the queen fears Aslan. Evil has no power over our King.

**PP#4: A Dangerous King**

1. Jesus defeating evil gives us hope

Now, this teaches us two important lessons. The first is that we have hope knowing that King Jesus defeats evil. In our lived reality of winter, and darkness, and sin, and death, we see a Savior who is powerful enough to push back the evil. A couple of weeks ago we held the funeral service for Richard McCargar. Cancer defeated his body. But we gathered to proclaim that because of Jesus, Richard was not dead. Richard is alive and healed and whole. And some day, Jesus will do that for all of creation! He will finish the war against evil and all the darkness will be gone. Jesus is dangerous to evil!

**PP#5: A Dangerous King**

1. Jesus defeating evil gives us hope
2. We choose His side

The second lesson not to miss is that when we come to know this powerful Savior-King who defeats evil so mightily (yes, we have hope, but also) it makes us want to choose to align ourselves with Him. We want to be on the winning side, right? Yes, the prince of darkness may be reigning now for awhile, but we want to play for the end game: we want to be on the winning side when it's all over. So, like Edmund, we flee the castle of evil and death and run to the camp of the noble king, the camp of life.

So today, as we proclaim how dangerous our king is to the evil and darkness in our world, I want to invite you to choose His side. If you've never done this, I urge you: make the decision to align yourself with the victorious King Jesus. Right now you may be serving all kinds of other gods, of other powers, of, if you're like most, some form of serving yourself. But the darkness you struggle with each day, that holds you down: only Jesus can defeat. Give your life to Him, commit to make Him your mighty King, and He will give you victory over the powers that control you.

You can do that by surrendering to Him. In monarchies, subjects kneel before their king and pledge their loyalty and lives to him. You can do that with Jesus. Acknowledge in your heart and mind that He is the true Son of God, the only Savior, choose to submit your life to Him, pledge to Him your allegiance and trust. You can do that any time, anywhere, in simple prayer. You can do it right now, or perhaps when we celebrate Holy Communion. If you would like someone to pray with you, come up at the end of the service to the front pew, and members of the prayer team will come pray with you. It's an easy thing to do, but it is also scary: it is a serious commitment!

**PP#6:** King Jesus is dangerous to evil.

But is King Jesus dangerous *to us*?

So, there is hope and relief knowing that our King of kings is dangerous to the forces of evil. But what the Beavers explain about Aslan is also true of our King. They did not say that Aslan was dangerous only to the White Witch. They said he was dangerous, period. He's dangerous *to everyone*!

Do you think of Jesus as dangerous...I mean, dangerous *to you*? We often say that in Jesus is safety, that we can run to Jesus for deliverance, that Jesus is our protector. This is all true. But part of what we need to recover as we embrace Jesus as King, is that He is also very dangerous *to us*.

**PP#7:** *Image (perhaps cartoon) of a lion tamer with a whip and chair, sparring with a roaring lion*

I think that maybe this one of the reasons C.S. Lewis chose Aslan to be a lion. Lions are not tame: ever. Even when we see lions perform, with a lion tamer in the cage, the disclaimer is always given: "Lions are wild creatures. They are always dangerous." And we've heard reports of performing lions that suddenly turn on their tamers for seemingly no reason.

Tame creatures are safe, in that we can control them. Wild animals are dangerous, in that we cannot control them. Lions are never controlled. Lions are always wild. Our Jesus is "the Lion of the Tribe of Judah." Jesus is dangerous, in that we cannot control Him.

**PP#8:** *Image of people bowing down to King Jesus*

One of the reoccurring reasons I hear from people who reject Jesus is that Jesus is not the way that they want or expect God to be. Simply put, they cannot control Jesus. He is not tame. And they want a God who they can fully understand and have the safety of always knowing—and predicting—exactly what He will do. They want a tame God.

But that's not what a king is. A king is someone who has control over you, authority over you, power over you; not you over them.

So, when we claim Jesus is King, there is a transfer of control. And that's scary! That's becoming vulnerable. It's giving up control! And we don't do that well.

We all, in some way, want to be our own king. But when we stop and think about that, it's actually a *tragic* wish. It's *not good*. When we are honest with ourselves, we realize that we cannot solve our way out of our mess, even if given access to more power! When we look at our track record, we realize that when we are given greater power, we only create a greater mess. We need a King who is *not* tame, who *doesn't* obey us, but who will come into our lives, disrupt us, confront us in ways we wouldn't choose, and save us from ourselves. We need a king who is dangerous!

**PP#9: A Dangerous King**

1. Jesus defeating evil gives us hope
2. We choose His side
3. Jesus is NOT safe, but He is ALWAYS good!

But, how can we put our trust in someone who is dangerous? Well, the beavers say that Aslan is *not safe*, but, he *is good*. And that's the key! They trust in Aslan because he is wholly and completely good. They may not understand him, they may not be able to control him, he may call upon them to do all kinds of painful and uncomfortable sacrifices, but he is always good and doing everything for their ultimate good. And this is why the children trust Aslan.

**PP#10:** “The Lord, the Lord God, ... abounding in **goodness** and truth.” -Exodus 34:6

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is **good!**” -1 Chronicles 16:34

“For He is **good**, for His mercy endures forever.” -Ezra 3:11

“**Good** and upright is the Lord.” -Psalm 25:8

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is **good!**” -Psalm 34:8

“The Lord is **good** to all...” -Psalm 145:9

“The Lord is **good**, a stronghold in the day of trouble.” -Nahum 1:7

“No one is **good** but One, that is, God.” -Mark 10:18

This is exactly what the Bible says about our King. Jesus, our God, is *not safe*—oh no! He is powerful and you cannot control Him—but He is—totally and completely and entirely and absolutely and in every possible way—only good, and everything He does us for our ultimate good...even when it seems in the moment, or in the short term, to be painful.

**PP#11:** *Image from a drawing of Aslan attacking the dragon Eustace to tear off his dragon skin*

In the third Narnia movie, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, the annoying boy Eustace, because of his greed, gets turned into a dragon. Now, as a dragon he learns to be helpful and self-sacrificing. But when Aslan finally appears, Eustace wants nothing more than to be himself again. Suddenly, Aslan attacks the dragon, fangs bared and claws lashing. He rips through his skin, and Eustace howls in terrible pain. He was so shocked at Aslan. He thought Aslan was supposed to be good! Why would Aslan do this to him? But Aslan was tearing away the dragon skin, and as he roared, Eustace's form as a boy emerged again. Then Eustace understood. It was the most painful thing he had ever experienced, but Aslan was doing it for his own good.

We need a King who is not safe, but good. He will do us what we need, so that we can grow and become who we are supposed to be. He will lead us through even the painful parts of our journeys, and He will have us experience all kinds of awful things that we would never choose for ourselves. All of this, is because He is good, and it is for our own good.

As subjects of a King who is not safe but good, we learn to say, no matter what we are going through, that “God is good...” [All the time!] And “All the time...” [God is good!]

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Father Christmas gave Peter a sword to mark his future position as a King of Narnia. Yet Peter struggled to believe in himself, his ability to lead, or to even help and save his siblings. Then there is a scene where Queen Jadis releases her wolves to go hunt down and kill the children. When Lucy is trapped, Peter draws his sword to face them. Now,

Aslan also shows up, and simply steps on one of the wolves. But he then stops, and even holds back the centaur from also helping Peter. Therefore, Peter faces Madrid alone. Have a look.

**Video Clip #3:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zK7hyhZOQmw> (Begin at 0:40 and end at 2:43)  
The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Sir Peter

Aslan stops from helping Peter! Why? Because Aslan knew that Peter needed to conquer his own fear and grow in courage. Aslan then knights him as “Sir Peter, Wolfsbane, Knight of Narnia.”

**PP#12:** *Image for Jesus being near while letting us go through hardships*

How often do you wonder why God doesn't come rushing to help you? Do you wonder how a loving God could let you experience such difficulties? It's never because He doesn't love you or care about you. He is always there, helping you—holding down the other wolves. But sometimes it's because He's growing you to conquer your fear or to get over what's holding you down: to grow you in courage and in believing in yourself so that you can be a stronger soldier in God's kingdom. God is always good, and sometimes it is precisely because He is so good that He has us face hardships and trials.

In the book, when the children see Aslan, C.S. Lewis uses that moment to teach about healthy fear. **Page 168:** “People who have not been in Narnia sometimes think that a thing cannot be good and terrible at the same time. If the children had ever thought so, they were cured of it now. For when they tried to look at Aslan's face they just caught a glimpse of the golden mane and the great, royal, solemn, overwhelming eyes; and then they found they couldn't look at him and went all terribly.” (*LWW*, page 168)

**PP#13:** “So God will do for me all He has planned. He controls my destiny. No wonder I am so terrified in His presence. When I think of it, terror grips me. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me.” -Job 23:14-16

“Woe is me! for I am ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!” -Isaiah 6:5

“The disciples were terrified and asked each other, ‘Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!’” -Mark 4:41

“Hearing this, the disciples were terrified and fell face down to the ground.” -Matt. 17:6

Let me read to you from another book, the Bible.

In Job 23, the first person who ever records his encounter with God, writes this. Verses 14-16, “So God will do for me all He has planned. He controls my destiny. No wonder I am so terrified in His presence. When I think of it, terror grips me. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me.”

Centuries later, Isaiah experiences God's presence and in 6:5 cries out, “Woe is me! for I am ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!” All over the Bible, when people meet in God's presence, or meet God's messenger, or hear his voice, they always react in fear. That's why in the Bible, the first thing that angels always say is, “Do not fear!” Our God is dangerous. He is holy. He is righteous. When the disciples watch Jesus cast out demons or heal the sick, they get scared! When Jesus calms the storm, it says in Mark 4:41, that the disciples “were terrified and asked each other, ‘Who is this?’”

Even the wind and the waves obey Him!” In Matthew 17, when Peter, James and John were with Jesus at the Transfiguration, they caught a glimpse of the glory of Jesus and heard God’s voice, and, it says, “they were terrified and fell face down to the ground.” (17:6)

**PP#14: A Dangerous King**

1. Jesus defeating evil gives us hope
2. We choose His side
3. Jesus is NOT safe, but He is ALWAYS good!
4. In a leap of faith, accept His plans for your life

Our God Jesus is dangerous! Dangerous to evil, for sure! 1 John 3:8 says, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” But also dangerous to us all. We need a dose of healthy, holy fear, for our Mighty King does not leave us the way we are. He calls us to give up our selfishness, grow past our current maturity, and face all kinds of difficulties for our own good. That is why putting our trust in Jesus, as Søren Kierkegaard said so well almost 200 years ago, requires us to “make a leap of faith!” Making Jesus your king means you acknowledge that He is not tame, that you cannot control Him, that you will accept Him on His terms, and that you will accept His plan for your life: facing what He puts before you and what He allows you to face.

As we move toward Holy Communion, I want you to open your willingness to let Jesus be your dangerous King. Accept Him on His terms, not yours. Allow Him to do with you what He wants! And to help set us up for accepting Jesus as our mighty king, I want to have us turn to Revelation chapter 4. I’ve asked that today we keep the reading of Scripture until now. In Revelation 4 we go into the heavenly throne room and we see a glimpse of Jesus in all His majesty and power and glory and honor, and we surrender our lives fully to His glory. I invite you to close your eyes and imagine the scene as you hear this chapter. We see Jesus: glorious, dangerous, holy, awesome. Revelation 4.

**READING OF SCRIPTURE: Revelation 4:1-11 (CEB)**

“1 After this I [John] looked and there was a door that had been opened in heaven. The first voice that I had heard, which sounded like a trumpet, said to me, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in a Spirit-inspired trance and I saw a throne in heaven, and someone was seated on the throne. 3 The one seated there looked like jasper and carnelian, and surrounding the throne was a rainbow that looked like an emerald. 4 Twenty-four thrones, with twenty-four elders seated upon them, surrounded the throne. The elders were dressed in white clothing and had gold crowns on their heads. 5 From the throne came lightning, voices, and thunder. In front of the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God. 6 Something like a glass sea, like crystal, was in front of the throne.

“In the center, by the throne, were four living creatures encircling the throne. These creatures were covered with eyes on the front and on the back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion. The second living creature was like an ox. The third living creature had a face like a human being. And the fourth living creature was like an eagle in flight. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings, and each was covered all around and on the inside with eyes. They never rest day or night, but keep on saying,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is coming.”

“9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, who lives forever and always, 10 the twenty-four elders fall before the one seated on the throne. They worship the one who lives forever and always. They throw down their crowns before the throne and say,

11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
because you created all things.

It is by your will that they existed and were created.”

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE:** Lemuel the Lion -Pastor Andrew & Vicky Keintz

**HOLY COMMUNION:** -Pastor Andrew

Introduction: Prayers for the persecuted church

Prayers

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Invitation to receive the elements

Prayer

**[IN-PERSON WORSHIP ONLY] CLOSING SONG:** *Holy, Holy, Holy* -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

This week: Grow Groups!

Wednesday night: Community Dinner, Echo, Youth Group & Grow Groups

Next Sunday’s message: King of Kings: A Slain Lamb

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!” -1 Chronicles 16:34

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David