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**Lenten Midweek 3**

**St. John’s Passion**

“O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfector of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” *Gradual for Lent*

**AS WE GATHER**

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. As He testified before Pilate that His kingdom is not of this world so are we, by our Baptism, “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

**SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING** (*LSB*, pg. 260)

**Hymn** “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (*LSB* 709)

**FIRST READING** Ephesians 1:3-10, 15-22

**Hymn** “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives” (*LSB* 602)

**SECOND READING** John 18:28-40

**SERMON *“What Kind of King is This?”***

**Hymn** “Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates” (*LSB* 341)

**OFFERING**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Thy kingdom come. O Lord, rule our minds, hearts, and lives that we may know and believe Your Word of truth and that we may live our lives as forgiven sinners in true freedom serving others as You have served us. Hear us for the sake of Your love.

**People: Amen.**

**Hymn** “Beautiful Savior” (*LSB* 537)