

SERMON FOR SUNDAY, NOV. 28, 2021

Advent 1C 2021 Luke 19:28-40 “The Coming King.” Savior of the Nations, come!

Dear fellow redeemed of Christ, our King, in today’s Introit, we rejoiced to say, **Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.**

That sentence is what the season of Advent is all about. Your King is coming to you. And not just any king, but the King of Kings, the creator of all that is, including you.

The One whom is coming is the one to whom you owe your physical life, spiritual life, and all you are and have.

This King, your King is coming to you.

Our God wants to be known as a *coming* God – a God who comes ***to, for, and to be with*** His people.

We saw God’s dogged pursuit of His people in Eden. Right after Adam and Eve plunged themselves and our world into sin, God did not stand afar off, in condemnation and judgment, but ***came to them***, searching for them, though of course He knew where they were.

“**Where are you?**” the Father called out to His wayward children.

After that still, He came: to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; to Moses and Joshua; to David and Solomon; in both the Tabernacle and Temple, God came to dwell with His people.

But, as we heard from Jeremiah, **the days are coming** when our God would come to us in **a new way**.

The Lord our righteousness will be born into the house and lineage of David. Almighty God, the creator of all things, will come and be born as a man.

And, Jeremiah tells us, He will do so **to execute justice and righteousness, to save, that His people may dwell securely.**

And so in Christ, God came near. The babe in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in the manger, is Immanuel, God with us. God in human flesh.

And so He came. God in human flesh riding into Jerusalem on the back of a colt, to save His people by executing justice and righteousness – ***not by requiring it of them, but by taking it upon Himself.***

God came near to fulfill His perfect justice and righteousness upon the cross. **Taking** His justice and judgment against our sin upon Himself

and **giving** His righteousness and His forgiveness to us. What Luther called “the glorious exchange.”

And so He came according to plan. From crib to colt, to a cross – our God, our King, coming to us, that we might be saved.

And Our Savior comes again this morning for you!

For you, He came riding on the words of the Absolution, forgiving you all your sins.

For you, He comes riding in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, giving you His body and blood to forgive, renew, and strengthen you.

For you, He comes, that you who have spent another week in the struggle against sin and death might be rescued from your sin and given the life of Heaven.

Yes, God comes to you according to His plan.

From font to Word, to Supper, our God, our King, our Savior, comes to us, giving gifts to you, that we might be saved.

No matter how young, no matter how old. No matter how rich, no matter how poor. No matter who you are or what you’ve done, Christ comes to you.

He comes **for** you. **Behold, your King is coming to you.**

But do you care? I say that in all seriousness because I think, sometimes we do not realize what a wonder it is that our God and King comes to us!

I think of the excitement and wonder of the Christmas season now upon us – the excitement of children waiting for *Christmas* to come, their joy at the gifts they receive and I wonder: where are my excitement, wonder, and joy?

Not for the arrival of Santa, but of my God, my King, my Savior, coming for me. Most of us have experienced many Advent seasons, looking toward the coming of Christ the Lord.

Do we still feel awe as we look forward to the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation that we receive from Him. His gifts are far more valuable than the gifts of this world, which will break or wear out or are tossed aside in just a short time.

But, do we care? Or are perhaps like children who try to be good one month out of twelve because Santa is watching and their gifts depend on it! While the other eleven months they give it little thought to what God commands us to do.

Is that you and me, coming in repentance one day out of seven, to receive our gifts, but giving it all little thought the other six days of the week?

Using the freedom given to us in the Gospel as a license to sin, neglecting the Word and prayer, living as if God's Word makes no difference in my life outside these walls?

Do you care? Behold, your King is coming to you

I know that you care. But I also know your sin and the weakness of your human nature. Mine as well. So Advent is a season of repentance.

Why? Because the truth is that we do not love God as we ought, above all things. We do not love our neighbors as we ought, serving them and not sinning against them.

Even after our Lord has come to us, forgiven our sin, given us His Spirit, and made us His children – still, we have our sinful flesh still clinging to us, dragging us down.

We choose the wrong and not the right. We let the things of this world overshadow what is truly important. We listen to the lies and deceptions of Satan. We turn and go our own way. We treasure and lust after the things that do not last.

So now ponder the fact: ***your Savior-King is coming to you!*** Yes, though we are unworthy, ***He comes to us.***

Is this not a great and mighty wonder? What grace He shows that He turns not away from us, but as He came to Eden, to Jerusalem, *He now comes to us.*

Our Father calls to His wayward children. Calling us from our shame and sin and coming to us with His forgiveness that we go and sin no more.

How can we lose our sense of wonder and awe when we realize our God is coming with His life so that we, in the Spirit's empowerment, may go and live a new life.

How can we not fall on our knees in praise when we realize He is coming to us, not because we're good, because we're not!

Coming to us, not because we deserve it because we don't!

Instead, He comes to us, because we need Him and we couldn't go to Him.

He comes to us because our sin is too great for us, but it is not too great for Him!

And so He comes to us now, because it is not too late. He comes, calling us to repentance and faith, calling us to come and receive His gifts, calling us to live in Him alone.

And so *He comes* now as Savior, but He will soon come again as Judge.

On that day, He will come not hidden in the weakness of a e baby, but in all His glory. He'll no longer arrive through the humble means of Word, water, bread and wine, but on the clouds of Heaven.

He comes now to us so that we'll be ready. So that we will join the whole company of heaven on that day saying "***Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!***"

Just as the crowds in Jerusalem proclaimed when Jesus came to them then, and just as we proclaim now as Jesus comes to us in Holy Communion. The same Jesus, the same precious coming.

The crowds of those who were once blind or lame or deaf could now see and run and hear, *because Jesus came to them.*

The crowds of those like Lazarus, who was once dead, but now are alive *because Jesus came to them.*

The crowds of those who were unbelieving but now believe *because Jesus came to them.*

Today, you and I take our place with them ***because Jesus has come to us.***

Behold, your King is coming to you . . . from crib, to colt, to cross; from font, to Word, to Supper; coming . . . until He comes again, *one last time*, in glory.

The same Jesus, same King, same Savior, same gifts. He comes now to give you life.

He comes now to give you a kingdom not of this world.

He comes now, for you.

So Savior of the Nations, come! Come now, and lead us home. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.