

Sermon - Nov. 30th (Trinity) & Dec. 1st (Zion), 2024

Text: Luke 19:28-40

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and The Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES

As we look around, in the sanctuary, many of you may notice a few changes have taken place. There are trees in the sanctuary and in the entryway. There's garland around the organ and woven between the front altar area. You may notice that there are also more candles. These candles are called the Advent wreath, and along with the Advent wreath, we have the Advent blue on the altar and lectern and pulpit and I also am wearing the blue stole for Advent. Advent is the beginning of a new church year. It is a time when we laser focus on the ways that Jesus comes to us. It is a time when we focus on repentance of sins. So Advent is a beginning, a time of coming, and a time of repentance.

In Advent, we focus on how Jesus comes to us. We may think of Jesus coming in the manger as we remember Christmas and the incarnation of Jesus. We may think of the earthly ministry of Jesus and how He came to Earth to die for us and for our salvation. We may think of Jesus coming again

on the Last Day as we wait for His glorious return on this side of eternity. Finally, our eyes may be drawn to see Jesus as He comes to His bride the Church even in our time as He comes in true body and true blood given and shed for you.

So today, it is our task to hear the Scripture message about the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey and consider how He comes to us and how we now live as a result.

In Luke 19, we hear of this Triumphal Entry of our Lord, but before He entered Jerusalem, He told the disciples to prepare the animal that would carry Him into the Holy City. This animal would often carry a king into His capital city when He brought peace to His kingdom through military victory. However, our Lord was not the kind of victor that the people expected. Instead, He prophesied that the colt of a donkey would be tied up in the city and He foretold that the people may ask why His disciples were untying the colt. Then we are told that the disciples who were given the instructions, **“went away and found it just as He had told them.”** Our Lord knew where His path led. So, riding on a colt into Jerusalem, He chose the path of humility, and being humble and riding on a donkey, He entered Jerusalem to strange cries for a Carpenter from Nazareth to receive. These voices were

saying, **“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”** He is a King who comes, but 5 days later, Jesus would stand before Pilate and say, “My Kingdom is not of this world.”

So our King comes, but He comes not conquering enemies on Earth, but He comes to conquer an enemy within each of us. The enemy of sin which leads to death and the power of the devil over us. Our King comes bringing peace in heaven and so we all join with the crowds and shout glory in the highest (Gloria in excelsis Deo).

Our King comes with power to save us from ourselves. In the triumphal entry account of Matthew 21, the crowds shout “Hosannah in the highest” which means save us now. The Lord Jesus was entering Jerusalem to save all the world. He comes to bring peace. He comes as a babe lying in a manger. He comes that we may feast on His body and blood and find rest for our souls. He comes as our King with great power and authority so that we may first be renewed by His gifts in order that we may go and renew others as well. For the King who comes as a humble servant on a donkey truly is the Lord, and if the crowds did not cry out, **“Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord”** Jesus assures the Pharisees that the rocks would cry out. He is their creator and during this Triumphal Entry, He is coming to be

the Redeemer of the whole world. The whole Earth groans with the pain of Sin and Death. The whole world longs for the bonds of unrighteousness and spiritual warfare to be over. In Jesus, who comes in glory. This warfare is truly over. In Jesus who comes as a baby in the manger, the hope of eternal life is found. In Jesus, who died and rose and ascended on high to return again, we have the assurance of life and salvation by faith. For **“whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Whoever does not believe will be condemned”** (Mark 16:16)

Therefore, let us remember that Jesus is the light of the world during this season of Advent. Let us remember that He is the King who comes. Let us remember with repentant hearts that He is Lord of all and that He comes to save us even from ourselves and from our own sinful thoughts words and deeds. Let us look to Him and join the crowds this Advent season and call out to our friends and family and fellow believers saying, **“Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord. Peace in Heaven and glory in the highest!”** Amen.