



THEME OF THE WEEK: **The Lord Comes Even Now**

"Rejoice greatly" people of God, for the prophet Zechariah rightly proclaims, "your king is coming to you!" (Zech. 9:9). We rejoice in the advent of our Lord this week. Because we cannot go to Him, He comes to us. He comes humble, meek, and lowly to save! He comes even now in water and Word, bread and wine to forgive, renew and strengthen hearts and minds. He comes with nothing less than the very blessings of His kingdom; forgiveness, life and salvation. And on the Last Day, He will come again in glory and power to raise you and all the dead and give life to you and all believers in Christ. Rejoice, your King is coming you!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 21:1-9 Your King Comes to You**

On this first Sunday of the Church Year, the life and ministry of our Lord comes to its climax as He rides into the holy city on Palm Sunday. Jesus is welcomed as king, but what kind of king? He rides on a donkey, not on a stallion or warhorse. He enters Jerusalem not to conquer with might or power (though He could), but to offer grace, mercy and peace to sinners estranged from God. Fear not daughter Zion, rejoice greatly! Your King comes to you again today. He comes not in power, nor by force, but humble, lowly, bowed down and full of grace and mercy. He knows all your grievous faults and ugly sins, and yet He still comes to you and for you in mercy to forgive and save. *Lord Jesus, thank You for coming lowly to save me from my sin. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 1 Blessed is The Man**

Advent is a holy season of devotion and prayer, hearing and meditating on the Word of God. It is a season of repentance and faith as we prepare to celebrate with joy our Lord's first coming even as we eagerly await with confidence His second. Delighting in the law of the Lord, we meditate on it daily, that it may lead us in the way of the righteousness, light and life. At the same time, we rejoice that our Lord Jesus is the One and Only Man, who fully delighted in and perfectly meditated on the Word of the Lord, day and night. He is the way of righteousness. Baptized into Christ, you are a good and righteous tree who bears Godly fruit in every season. *Lord Jesus, water me with Your Word that I may continue to grow and bear fruit in You. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 4:18-22 The Messiah Has Found You - The Festival of St. Andrew**

The story of St. Andrew begins in John 1 where he is brought to faith through the beautiful preaching of John the Baptist; "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (1:29). Andrew is known as the first "home missionary" because he introduced his brother Simon (Peter) to Jesus. In his excitement he told Simon, "We have found the Messiah" (Jn. 1:41). But in reality, it was the Messiah who had come for Andrew and found him. The Messiah has also found you, called you by the Gospel and enlightened you with His gifts! Set free from sin, darkness and death, we too happily point others to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! *O Lamb of God, thank You for finding me, calling me and making me Yours. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 33:14-18 The Lord is our Righteousness**

The Word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah is a Word of promise, hope and future. Israel and Judah had been lead down the thorny and deadly path of idolatry and then exiled by their faithless and unrighteous kings. Even so, Yahweh never lost sight of His promise. He would raise up a "Righteous Branch" from the line of David who would be called "The Lord Is Our Righteousness" (Jer. 23:6). Sprouting up in the womb of a virgin, this "righteous Branch" came to take on our sin, death and damnation that He might bestow upon us His eternal righteousness, life, and salvation. Grafted into this Branch you are now called "The Lord is our righteousness" (Jer. 33:17). *Heavenly Father, thank You for keeping Your promise to raise up a righteous Branch. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 1:1-25 The Lord is Gracious**

Zechariah and Elizabeth, like Abraham and Sarah, Elkanah and Hannah, before them, were recipients of the Lord's gracious favor, who blessed them with a special child through extraordinary means. Elizabeth suffered the silent pain of being barren. Both she and Zechariah were years past the point of being able to bear and rear children. Nevertheless, God choose them to be the parents of the greatest prophet born of man (Matt. 11:11). He would be great before the Lord, preparing a people for His coming. Fittingly, John's name means "God has been gracious." Not only would John's birth bring joy and God's blessing to his parents, but to all who would receive the One whose path he would prepare. *O Lord, thank You for Your underserved grace in Jesus. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Colossians 1:12-23 Purchased by Jesus' Priceless Blood**

The beautiful words of St. Paul here in Colossians are words of transaction. God the Father has purchased you, a lost and condemned person, redeemed you from sin, death and everlasting condemnation, reconciled you to Himself, and transferred you from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of His Son. All this He has done, not with gold or silver, but by the costly and priceless blood of His Son. In Jesus, you are now God's holy, blameless and beloved child given to share in the inheritance of the saints; a gift and treasure beyond comparing! *Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for coming down and taking on flesh to pay the all-sufficient cost of my redemption. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 143 God's Covenant Love in Christ Never Ends**

What do you do when you're in danger or trouble? The psalmist teaches us to call upon the Lord in the day of trouble! David pleads for mercy, for the Lord to rescue him from his enemies. He appeals to the Lord's righteousness, faithfulness and covenant love. The Lord is faithful. He always keeps His covenant. His mercy and love endure forever! He may not rescue us from every difficulty or trial in life, but He will never forget the covenant He has made with us in Holy Baptism. Christ Jesus faced and defeated all our enemies (sin, death, and devil) for us! Therefore, come what may, our lives are hidden in Christ (Col. 3:3), safe and secure in Him always. *Heavenly Father, thank You for Your covenant love in Christ that knows no end. Amen.*

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