



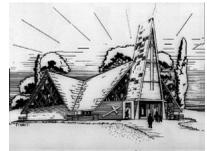
Free Evangelical Lutheran
Synod in South Africa

Sermon for First Sunday of Advent

Series C

*The King who comes in the Name of
the Lord!*

St. John's Lutheran Parish



Shelly Beach

• The Word of God for this Sermon is written in Lk 19,28-40:

- ^{ESV} 28 And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
- 29 When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples,
- 30 saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here.
- 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'"
- 32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them.
- 33 And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"
- 34 And they said, "The Lord has need of it."
- 35 And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.
- 36 And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road.
- 37 As he was drawing near- already on the way down the Mount of Olives- the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen,
- 38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
- 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."
- 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."
- Let us pray: *Come Holy Spirit, open our ears and our hearts so that we will with in humbleness receive the Word of Redemption. Amen.*

• **Dear Citizens of God's Jerusalem!**

- [38] *"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"* the whole multitude of Jesus' disciples praised God that day.
- Jesus came into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey which no man had ever sat upon. This donkey was meant for Him! When David was old he told Bathsheba to put Solomon on his donkey and parade him into the city, showing everyone that he was the chosen heir. So when Jesus rode into Jerusalem sitting on a donkey there was no denying what was going on, according to the OT. He is the

true king in David's line.

- Everything was ready and prepared. What Jesus commands happens. A true King enters Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. Besides this He did many signs and wonders on the way to Jerusalem like healing the blind man in Jericho, who was shouting and prophesying of Jesus [18,39]: "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*" After this blind man could see again he followed Jesus. Many followed Him in this way.
- This act of Jesus also fulfilled the prophecy of the prophet Jeremiah. Jesus was the King of Righteousness who came to execute justice and righteousness! The crowd who followed Him expected Jesus to be enthroned in Jerusalem.
- Not everyone was glad on that day! The Pharisees took offence of the praise of Jesus' disciples! What was the matter with them? Didn't they want justice and righteousness to be established in their land? Without any doubt they wanted that just as much as everyone else, but they had a serious issue with the authority of Jesus. They didn't believe that Jesus was the right person. He was not their messiah! They rejected His kingship!
- Up until today the rabbis argue that Jesus had far too little followers, and they were mainly from the lower classes of citizenship, not from the elite. The leaders of the Jews rejected Him.
- Altogether they expected their messiah to be a powerful politician who would manage to enforce justice and righteousness on the whole world. They were and are thinking along the lines of political and social justice. They wanted someone who would sort out the kingdoms of the world, who would put Rome in its place and establish Jerusalem as the capitol of the world. All nations would come and learn from Him and the Jewish nation.
- Above all they asked for a sign from heaven. Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist, the very sign from heaven Jesus pointed them to, they would not accept.
- On the other hand the followers of Jesus gave Him the right praise. The right words were leaving their mouths! But did they understand what they were confessing? At Jesus' crucifixion it became clear that they had also expected Jesus to save them from the Roman oppression, from a political oppressor! They

also, had hoped for Jesus to be a king as our old Adam longs for. A king who would come and demolish all baddies, all terrorists, all evil, all laziness and once and for all establish justice on earth!

• Don't we long for someone along those lines in SA too? One who would sort out the criminals! That is why from of old heroes played a big role. People who were willing to stand up for 'my oppressed people'. And those that succeeded to free them became heroes. They made it into the history books.

• Jesus is not like this. His Way of "*executing justice and righteousness*" is not by means of killing the enemy! He did not come to destroy Pilate or any Roman Emperor. He came to be baptised by the prophet John, which was the sign of authority God gave to Israel that this is God's own beloved Son! He came to proclaim the Righteousness of God as a gift to sinners! He came to suffer and eventually die under the hands of the very Romans, everyone hoped He would besiege!

• He executed justice by being executed Himself! He established the Righteousness that counts before God, by absorbing all your and my unrighteousness and in exchange to give us His being right with God. He executed justice in utter humility, weakness and helplessness. He executed justice by hanging on the Cross, being forsaken by his own Father.

• This is the Way of Christ's justice and Righteousness. It is a completely foolish way in the eyes of intellectual humanity and a way lacking all signs and miracles in the eyes of religious mankind. Instead of killing the Romans, He died for them!

• Precisely through His Death, He was crowned as the King of Israel, God's nation. Jesus established a new Kingdom, a Kingdom not of this world, which does not mean, non-real. In fact it is more real and longer lasting than any kingdom of this world. And He did establish it on earth, but it goes beyond this world, beyond this time and space bound existence.

• In this Kingdom, the Israel of God, Jesus is present as King who brings the peace of God. There is peace in heaven, there is peace in the Kingdom of Jesus, because what He established did not happen against God's will, but along with it. Jesus came in the Name of the Lord that day to extend the peace of God to Jerusalem! That is why praise from earth would have to resonate back to God,

for the enormous work He was doing. If the disciples wouldn't have praised Jesus, the stones would have praised Him! Even the angels in heaven gave Him honour as He entered Jerusalem!

- Since this powerful act of God, heaven reaches out to earth to all those who are gathered in the name of Jesus! Today Jesus came to visit us, as we are gathered in His name. In this Kingdom, in the Body of Christ, He comes to share the peace of heaven with us cleansed sinners. He is present in Spirit and Body and reigns by serving us. He leads us to repentance. He takes our sins away. He forgives them. They are gone forever. He proclaims the good news to us, that all is fulfilled, that justice was done. The peace of God is here for you. Here is His righteousness, as a gift.

- Here you don't need to be afraid of God, afraid of His punishments, because here the peace of heaven reigns. Here we are in the living room of God. He is our Father, we are His dear children. Therefore our hearts are opened, our tongues are loosened our whole body starts to resonate the praise due to Him. As you do this, you are participating in fulfilling the Scriptures, because you fall in with the multitude who praised Jesus on that day. Do you think the praise has ever stopped since that day?

- This is what Advent is about: Jesus came and executed justice, therefore He comes- present tense- continuously, whenever we call on His name, and He will come on the Last Day to bring to fulfilment our eternal Life with Him.

- *[38] "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Amen.*

- *"He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with (you) all." Amen. [^{ESV} Rev 22,20-21]*