

Matthew 21:1-11

“Our King”

November 27, 2016

This is the beginning of the New Church Year. We begin the New Church Year with the celebration of Advent. Advent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Christmas is the time of the year when we celebrate the birth of the Savior as the Baby born in Bethlehem. This was the Savior which God prepared the way for us in the Old Testament. He gave us three hundred prophecies to look to as we compared all those who over the years claim to be the Messiah. Those who claimed to be Messiahs had to fulfill all 300 prophecies. Even today some claim that they are the Messiah/Savior like Sun Yung Moon of the Moonies. Only Christ is the Son of God. He came and fulfilled all the prophecies.

Of course we are surrounded by the world's preparation for Christmas. We have the lights that sparkle the eyes. We have the food and candy that satisfy the taste buds. We have the music that lifts us up and gives us a Christmas spirit. We have the stories of Santa Claus that gladden our hearts. Also we have the love that makes our hearts feel good. Yes for most of us, Christmas is a feel good time of the year. Only this is the world's preparation for Christmas.

Advent is the season for preparing to celebrate the gift of God's Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Our preparation for Christmas should be the same as our

preparation for the Lord's Supper. First, we are to examine our lives and look for the areas in our lives where we have been selfish and self-centered. Then we are to repent of our failures to live up to God's expectations of us. His expectation is that we will be perfect. Second, we see the Savior riding into Jerusalem as Christ the King in our text today and recommit ourselves to Him. Third, we focus the rest of our lives upon changing in ways that give glory to God's name.

In our text we see the reason for celebrating the birth of our King in Bethlehem. First, the crowds in Jerusalem ask who is the man that is being treated like a King when He enters Jerusalem? Those leading Jesus into Jerusalem answer that He is "Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." Jesus has been among them only three years and most of that time has been spent in the country away from Jerusalem. Yet, His teachings and miracles have preceded Him and most therefore know Him by His reputation.

Second, Jesus tells two of His disciples to go to a village ahead of them and they will see a colt and her mother. They are to bring them to Jesus for Him to ride into Jerusalem. The owners in the village give the colt and her mother to Jesus because the Lord had need of them. So many questions this brings to mind. Only God knows the answers. The symbolism here is that Jesus Christ the Savior comes in peace not as a King on a war horse to conquer.

Third, those leading and following Jesus into Jerusalem are treating Him as the King of Judah. As with kings of old they are laying palm branches and their clothes upon the ground for Him to ride over. Then they praise Him as the Son of David! They praise Him as coming in the name of the Lord God. They praise Him by saying “Hosanna in the highest.” Yes, they are welcoming Jesus as the Lord and promised Savior of the Old Testament.

We live in a world where fewer and fewer people are willing to prepare themselves for the Christ Child. They want the world’s Christmas and all of the excitement that goes with it. For them it could easily become the most depressing time of the year if the world’s Christmas were taken from them because they would be left without the source of Christmas joy which is Jesus Christ.

The joy Christ brings is the salvation of our souls. The angels proclaimed His coming in the fields when He was born. God wants us to celebrate in the worldly way, but He also wants us to know why we celebrate. Jesus Christ is coming into the world to save our souls. Jesus Christ humbles Himself and becomes one of us. Jesus Christ humbles Himself and enters Jerusalem on the colt the foal of a donkey. Yes, Jesus Christ comes to change the world, but in God’s way which is the way of peace. Amen.