

Advent, means coming. Now is a time of preparation, for the King is coming. The story of God's people. He is their King. They were given judges to serve their needs. Judges like Sampson, Gideon. The people demanded God to give them kings, like the other nations have kings. But don't you see dear child of God, you are not to be like the others, like other nations. God tells them, if you have a king they will take your sons off to fight their wars, they will take your money and call it a tax, it will not be good. And God allows their demand to have a king. So Samuel, 3000 years ago, the last judge, and a prophet anoints first King, Saul. And then the history of God's people with their kings is mostly bad. There are a few good and even they do evil. Saul's reign will end through many trials but Samuel has him go to Bethlehem, to the house of Jesse and their David will be the chosen successor. The line of David, house of Jesse, Bethlehem, that's how we get there. David through good and you know of his evil and repentance reigns. David is not allowed to build the Temple, but as God sends the angel of death to punish the people, David will offer his life for all and then God told to make a sacrifice on a mount, where the temple is to be built, same mount where Abraham spared his only son. From evil of his people, God is always bringing good, as the succor to David is from his relationship with Bathsheda, and as a sign, Solomon is placed on a donkey and rides in Jerusalem.

In this city, the Abrahamic Covenant (eternal relationship, God's mark and name on them, his descendant, another promise of Christ to come) and Davidic covenant (a king, heir of David to reign on the throne forever). All the sacrifices, all the evil deeds of kings and peoples will be answered there.

So now is a time of preparation, for the King is coming. It's not the Christmas season. I should remind you every year, **don't let Christmas ruin your Advent!** Prepare. Look at your life, how you are living. We need intense seasons- Advent, Lent to reflect upon how we live, special penitential times.

For consider you and I adapt, that so many sins don't bother us as they should; you don't think about what you should've done, what you should be doing, how you waste so much time in mindless activities, that really could be used to act in love to others or at least improve yourself. God help us. Why you, we need Advent, to heighten your awareness of how you live, greater reflection. Here's a word for you, Olfactory Adaptation, that's why you can't hear yourself snore or tickle yourself. Olfactory Adaptation, your mind filters information, filters things, your body adapts without you even thinking about it; that's why you don't smell your odors, your body and in the bathroom. That would be so disgusting, but even more, your odor of sins stink to high heaven. Yes, you are gross, how often you don't realize, your mind filters the information, you don't realize or think about the odor of your sins, just how disgusting you are. Thus

St. Paul, encourages you, **walk properly. Put away works of darkness, selfish passions of your sinful lusting. Put away your immoral thoughts.** Repent.

Your King rides into the holy city, eternal son of David, to reign on the throne to lay down His life for the people, that the angel of death cannot have them, where the Father will not spare His only Son in order to have you. For there's one place in Scripture where the title of Jesus as King is given, placed over His head as He is on the throne of a cross. And God's people cry out there on that Palm Sunday with Psalm 118, the messianic Psalm of the King to come. Read, pray Psalm 118, filled with so much, **Oh give thanks to the Lord for His is good, His steadfast Love endures forever; what can man do to me? I will not die but live and recount the deeds of the Lord; songs of salvation; this is the Day the Lord has made, rejoice,** and on and on, and: **Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord**, as we cry out every time right before the Sacrament. The King, the Christ, comes again humble to this holy city to save His people and you join your song with theirs, cry -Hosanna, save us now Lord. Your Hosannas, your cry for help is answer right here, right now.

You see, God has always been your true king even when you choose others. He comes as a man to redeem all the evil of kings, evil of men, even you. This is the King who is coming to you. You don't have to go out searching for Him; faith is not a self-help program. He comes to you. Martin Luther put it this way: *"Jesus is a king like no other. You do not seek Him; He seeks you. You do not find Him; He finds you. For the preachers come from Him, not from you. Their preaching comes from Him, not from you. Your faith comes from Him, not from you. And all that your faith works in you comes from Him, not from you."*

For you He comes, you who've spent another week in the struggle against temptations, sin and death, be rescued from your sin, given life in His kingdom which has no end.

For Your King Himself comes here to bind you up, fill you with His joy. And with all the distractions and trappings and busyness out there now; prepare rightly, stay focused upon Your King, what Advent season is all about.

Let this staggering joy of His comings flow over and through you and into your homes and family. **Hosanna to the Son of David!** Nothing greater to sing than asking your Lord to save you.

For this, He is born, laid in a manger, that you would partake of His Holy Body and Blood and your hearts cleansed, made pure. Advent, for preparation, special devotions. a time of fasting before Christmas feasting, 24 days. Don't let the world rob you of this time you desperately need. Prepare to meet your King even today, who comes still humble, lowly to have you, now and for eternity.