

Advent: “Come, Lord Jesus”

As we enter this Advent Season in early December, the days are already moving fast. We’re deeply aware of the busyness of these days. Preparations for Christmas just ‘around the corner’ only accelerate the pace of running from one thing to the next. Projects, appointments, schedules and commitments line up. Time is short.

This is precisely why we need the quiet and deliberate season of Advent.

The insight of God’s eternal Word—the clear Voice of your God in these busy days— puts our frenzied lives into focus with the royal announcement spoken by the Prophet Zechariah: “Behold, your King is coming to you ... lowly and riding on a donkey.” What Zechariah was pointing his ancient congregation forward to was its perfect fulfillment with Jesus—our King--on Palm Sunday entering into Jerusalem to die (the traditional and “perfect” reading for the *First Sunday in Advent*).

All of Advent is summed in the simple declaration: “Behold, your King is coming to you.” In fact, the word “Advent” simply means “coming.” The season of Advent weaves together all three “comings” of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. **He came** in the flesh, born of Mary ... that He might ride into Jerusalem and suffer and die as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This same Lamb of God (the Agnus Dei to whom you sing in the *Service of the Sacrament*) **now comes** to save us in the preaching of His Word, by His baptizing, and with His very Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Altar to serve us the forgiveness of sins He won by His dying. And this same Lord Jesus, who came

humble on a donkey, who comes hidden beneath the covering of word, water, bread and wine, **will come** uncovered on the Last Day in the fullness of His glory to be our judge.

He came: Child to atone for you. **He comes** to serve you His salvation each week by His means of grace. **He will come again**—the only part of Creed left undone! — to judge and pronounce His sentence on you: “Come, blessed of My Father and receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Your King, our Lord Jesus, *always coming* ... that He might save and redeem you and take you to Himself. He is the God who comes ... to us!

And “how shall we meet Him, how welcome Him aright?” We receive Him by faith, trusting in His merciful Words as He comes to us with His Body and Blood. “See, your King comes to you, no longer on a lowly donkey, but with His Body and Blood under the bread and wine. He comes to take away your shame and redeem your days. He comes to restore you to the joy of His salvation. *Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*”

Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor Peter Cage

