

of the age. The two sections combine in the manner in which they present a sudden occurrence. There are some significant comparisons between Noah (and the Chosen People) and Jesus. Jesus is the obvious fulfillment of those things that Noah (and the Chosen People) did not fulfill. Jesus was also the star of His parable. Jesus compared Himself to a thief who comes in an unexpected manner. There is a stern and urgent message in this lesson. There is very little time. There is very little time before the end of the age, to receive the Gospel and respond in repentance and love. Those who repent are taken to Heaven to live with God eternally. Those who do not are lost.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑨ Almighty God, Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, Who since the world began, has given the promise of mercy and deliverance through Your holy prophets. We thank and praise You for the coming of Your Son Jesus Christ, the Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel.

We see that Your faithful people in every age have earnestly and strongly believed in Your Word. We cry out to You, O God. Make us so believe in Your Word putting our faith alone in Jesus that we also are found worthy to obtain Your heavenly promise. As Your people of the Old Covenant looked with longing for the coming of the Messiah, the Deliverer, grant that we may eagerly and joyfully welcome Jesus our Lord, into our hearts through our faith, and be delivered by His might from the power of sin, death and the devil.

Dear God and Father of us all, lead us by Your Spirit to an understanding of our great sinfulness and our need of repentance. Teach us to repent. Help us hate evil and love the good. Strengthen us against the temptations of all our adversaries. Incline our hearts to seek righteousness, justice and holiness, that we may serve and glorify You.

Bless all who are gathered here in Your house this day. Sanctify them by Your Word. We pray for those among us who are afflicted in any way, those who are in sorrow, those who are enduring trials, those who may be in any necessity of body or spirit. Grant them such strength comfort, and understanding that they, loving You above all else, may in patience and constancy know the joy of Your Love and abiding presence.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

All these things we ask in the name of He; Who came for our deliverance, died for our salvation, rose again for our justification, and ever lives to intercede for us before Your Majesty on High, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

© Amen.

ADVENT ONE

Chant Tone



Introit

Behold, your King is com | ing to you,*
righteous and having salva | tion is He.

Save us, we pray, — O Lord!*

O Lord, we pray, give | us success!
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of
the Lord!*

We bless you from the house | of the
Lord.

The Lord is God, and He has made His
light to shine up — on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up
to the horns of the — alter!

You are my God, and I will give | thanks
to You;*

You are my God; I will ex — tol You.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Behold, your King is com | ing to you,*
righteous and having salva | tion is He.

(Antiphon, Zechariah 9:9b alternative;
Psalm 118:25-28)

Collect of the Day

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of — Zion!*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je | rusalem!

Behold, your King is com | ing to you;*

righteous and having salva | tion is He.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

We bless you from the house | of the Lord.

(Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: By Your grace, O Lord, we enter a new Church Year. We praise You for Your goodness which has followed us through many generations. Yours is the kingdom, the Power, and the Glory. Graciously help us rejoice in the promise of the Messiah and prepare for the celebration of His First Coming while we await the fulfillment in His Second Coming. Help us realize that Jesus came to give us peace, the enduring peace between Your Divine Majesty and our lowly presence. Bless our witness of His peace which came as Your gift to us. Grant that our lips and lives reflect Your great mercy. This we ask in our Savior's name. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS OF THE END OF ALL TIME. Paul, in talking about the end of the world, told the gathered Christians in Rome to "understand the present time." As the sun is getting low on the horizon, you can tell when it is going to set with your fingers. If you hold your hand with your little finger on the horizon, each finger between the horizon and the sun represents about 15 minutes. We are able to observe the activities of nature and draw conclusions about the future. We observe many things about time and season. Every weekday from 3PM to 7PM we know the roads are full of cars. When it is winter we dress warmly, when it is summer we dress in light clothing. We are pretty clever about understanding our present time, but we need to be more clever about the future. The Christ of our salvation is near. Christmas is near and the end of the world is near. And now we wait in expectation.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Advent of our King

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b alternative;) Psalm 118:25-28
For our antiphon, we have taken the middle words out of chapter 9:9, from Zechariah. This is the prophecy of Palm Sunday (the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.) Palm Sunday is a part of Christ's first Advent (first appearance) when He showed Himself to be the "Suffering Servant," the Christ. Psalm 118 is an unidentified song of praise, in anticipation of the coming Savior, Who will be met with excitement.

COLLECT

We ask Jesus to come. We know that the first Advent is over, and we are calling out. We call to Him to come into our lives both in the spiritual sense and that He should advance His Second coming. The result we expect is that we will be saved by Him to life eternal.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 2:1-5

This is from the introductory section of the Book of Isaiah. In the first two chapters of Isaiah, we see a back and forth swing from descriptions of Israel's sin with God's threats of judgment, to proclamations of restoration and salvation. Our lesson is the swing to Israel's glorious future. The glorious future would be obtained when the Messiah appeared. In the Old Testament the words: "last days," point to the day when the Messiah would come to the temple (alike to how we count to the first Advent.)

THE GRADUAL—Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118:26

With the Introit we use Zechariah 9:9. Here we add the beginning of and leave off the end. This lets us think about the Palm Sunday event; His Advent in power (before He went to the cross.) Psalm 118 is also reused from our Introit. We use verse 26 which is a song of blessing. We sing the praise of the coming Savior.

THE EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 13:8-14

The second Advent of Christ will bring salvation. Therefore we need to set aside the darkness of our sin and the sadness of the darkness of sin that overwhelms our flesh, and look toward the light of Jesus Christ. There is a "light at the end of the tunnel" metaphor in here. No matter how terrible our life might look, and no matter how much we are trapped by sin, we are to look up. Christ is coming again to take us out of this place of suffering and sin. There is a light and The Light is Jesus.

THE GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 24:36-44

There are two parts put together in this reading. The first part concerns Noah, the second is about a thief. Jesus was on the Mount of Olives. He was preparing His disciples for life between His Resurrection and the end