

of the power and malice of His enemies in Jerusalem. He came to show that He was not cast down or grieving over His approaching sufferings. He came not only publicly, but cheerfully and with an acclamation of the fulfillment He brings. He rode on a borrowed donkey, as everything He had was borrowed, as everything we have is only borrowed from God. He came as one humble and was exalted by the people. They welcomed Him, they wished Him well. These were far different crowds than those He would face on Friday. The leadership complained that He was encouraging a riot, or at least encouraging people to claim He was the Messiah. Jesus tells them the truth they are missing. If the people don't cry out, the very stones from the ground will. We are those stones.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ We come to You, Almighty God, Father of all mercies and God of all comfort. Since the world began, You gave 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. Allow us to sing His praise in holiness and righteousness.

We are bold to ask You, O God, that as Your faithful people in every age have so strongly believed in Your Word, that You would make us so unwaveringly believe that we are found by You 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 Him, Jesus our Lord and Savior, into our hearts by faith, and be delivered by His might from the power of sin, death and the devil.

To this end, dear God, 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 to love the good. Strengthen us against the temptations of all our adversaries. Incline our hearts to seek righteousness and holiness, that we may serve and glorify You.

Send out Your light to all the corners of the Earth, that people everywhere may know You. Bless all who are gathered here in Your house this day and sanctify them by Your Word. To those among us who are afflicted in any way, to those who are in sorrow, to those who are enduring trials, to those who may be in any necessity of body or spirit, grant such strength comfort, and understanding that they, loving You above all else, may in patience and constancy know the joy of Your abiding presence.

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

All this we ask in the name of He Who came for our deliverance, 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.

For who in the skies can be compared  
| to the Lord;\*  
among the heavenly beings is | like  
the Lord,

Righteousness and justice are the  
foundation| of Your throne;\*  
steadfast love and faithfulness go  
— before You.

Blessèd are the people who know the  
| festal shout;\*  
who walk, O Lord, in the light | of  
Your face,

who exult in Your name | all the day\*  
and in Your righteousness are  
ex—altered.

For our shield belongs | to the Lord,\*  
our king to the Holy One of —Israel.

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;  
Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18)

### 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 alternative)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** O Lord, our Father and Redeemer, from everlasting You are God. With joy and thanksgiving we acknowledge that we are indebted to You for our existence. Without You we cannot live, and apart from You life has no meaning. Bend down Your ear and listen as we pray. For permitting us to enter another church year, for finding us and leading us like a Shepherd through Your Word, for keeping Your promise and sending us a Savior, we praise Your Holy name. As we prepare for the festivities of celebrating our Lord's birth, grant us true spiritual insight that we may recognize Him as David's Son and David's Lord. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**WE BEGIN A NEW CHURCH YEAR WITH JESUS AS LORD AND KING.** The most obvious time Jesus presented Himself as king was during the Palm Sunday event when He rode into Jerusalem as the conquering hero. When the Pharisees became afraid that the Romans would think a riot had broken out (we find out later that an attempted insurrection had been recently put down) Jesus answered that if the people weren't calling, that the very stones would raise up and cry out, "Blessèd is the king!" You are the stones who have been raised up. Jesus made a play on words when He announced to Peter that on the rock of His faith the church would stand. We are the rocks on which the church stands. Through the Word of God we have been put in place by God, built on the foundation of the Apostles' to give glory to our Savior as king and Lord.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**  
The Advent of our King

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b;) Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18  
We have taken the middle out of verse 9 from Zechariah. This is the prophecy of Palm Sunday, part of Christ's first Advent when He showed Himself to be the Suffering Servant; the Christ. Psalm 89, v.15-18 form one section. Written by Ethan, during the time of Solomon, the people of God are recognized for their faith. The One on Whom they rest their faith is identified as the "Holy One of Israel."

### **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**—Jeremiah 33:14-16

Jeremiah was commissioned to preach not only Law (which he does with a passion) but also the Gospel. The contrast is apparent in our text where the Law is followed by a Gospel promise. The days promised by Jeremiah were fulfilled in the First Advent of Christ. It perhaps doesn't appear to be so, because we still suffer here on Earth, but in the Advent of the Savior, in His birth we have been guaranteed that all the promises of the Old Testament, including Salvation, have been fulfilled. We are called Christians. We are called by the name of the Son of Righteousness. And for that we celebrate.

### **GRADUAL**—Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26 alternative

Here we use all of verse 9, to help us think about the Palm Sunday event, (the entry into Jerusalem,) which was Jesus' Advent in power, before He went to the cross. Psalm 118 is a song of praise used in anticipation of the coming Savior. He will be met with excitement and praise.

### **EPISTLE LESSON**—1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Paul, with all the suffering and trouble in his life, proclaimed the Gospel. He found time to exclaim his joy. Paul's joy in God is the same joy he exclaims for the wonder of God. The Thessalonians had been established as blameless in holiness before God as a result of their being caused by Him to abound in love for one another. God accepts us as blameless. Now we respond in joy and wonder. We bend our life to accommodate our blameless designation, as we celebrate with all the saints, while waiting for Christ to return and take us to live with Him forever.

### **GOSPEL LESSON**—Luke 19:28-40

This is the account of Christ's public entry into Jerusalem, days before His death. He came into town remarkably, to show that He was not afraid