

Sermon, November 28, 2021, First Sunday of Advent—Trinity Lutheran Church—Pastor Peter Saie

**Text:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 19:28-40.

**Glory and Honor, Praises and Thanksgiving to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.**

**Theme:** “The true beauty and the joy of Advent.”

**Introduction:** There are changes in the air; homes are being beautifully decorated with many color lights; malls and shopping centers are populated with shoppers; prices of commodities are on sales and clearances; and there are also new songs in the air, the songs of traditional myth, that Santa is coming to town with Rudolph the red-nose ring deer. And for many, this season is only about the celebration of family members gathering around larger diner tables and sharing their gifts with loved ones. But on the other hand, we Christians, rejoice in the songs of hope, “Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her King, let every heart prepares Him room...” And beside preparing our dinner table only, we prepare our hearts for the Lord; this is the true joy of Advent season which goes far beyond any earthly gift, for it is the joy of eternal life through the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who came to earth, some two thousand years ago to save all mankind from sins and death through His bitter suffering and death on the cross. The true joy of this season is the joy of that divine love of God, been made fulfilled to the world, that, **“God gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life, John 3:16.**

**In our Old Testament lesson, the Lord God made the promise through prophet Jeremiah, saying, “The days are coming, declares the , when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the**

house of Judah. In those days and at the time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness." For Jesus is the righteousness of God, not only for the tribes of Israel and Judah, but for all those who believe in Christ as their Lord and Savior.

**Therefore, the Psalm writer, realizing the divine love of God declares,** "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemy exult over me..."

Oh yes! Our worst enemy is the devil, who has always tried to exult himself over the glory of the Lord God but failed; he tried to kill the innocent Baby Jesus through the wicked plans of King Herod, but also failed, and because he never gives up from his crafty acts, he is trying to exult himself over God's glory even in the season of Christmas, by promoting the name of Santa Clause and his worldly gifts above the eternal gift of God through Christ Jesus, but he has also failed, because no one can share the glory of God the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**In our Gospel lesson,** we see that our Lord Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem for the last time, during his earthly ministry, to finish His work on the cross in order to bring glory to His Father, and as the crowd was shouting for His glorious welcome to Jerusalem, the devil again became upset, and through the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law, he began to stop the crowd from glorifying the Lord.

But Jesus said to them, "I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out!"

**In other words**, that no one is able to take away the power and authority the Father had given to the Son from the beginning, for through Jesus Christ, the Word, all things were made in the beginning, and without Him there was nothing made that was made, John 1:1-3. And that because a man has the authority over other men, they may be able to command people to stop praising God, but men do not have the authority over creation and nature, so if even the people were to stop praising God, the stones would have cried out to give glory to God the Son instead.

**In the same way**, our Lord Jesus Christ has given the same authority His Father has given Him in heaven and on earth to His disciples to go make disciples of all nations—and everyone who has been called by the Spirit through the Gospel of Christ, has the same authority over the enemy, the devil, within the Lord's service.

For this reason, fear not, for the enemy cannot take away the true beauty and joy of Advent from our hearts; he has been defeated by our risen Lord, and we are victorious in Christ Jesus; let's focus our eyes on Christ alone, the author and finisher of our faith.

May the peace of God which passes all human understanding guide your hearts and souls through Jesus Christ our soon coming King, Amen.