

December Newsletter 2024

It appears that we change seasons really fast. We move from green during the season of Trinity which marks growth in the church, to white on thanksgiving and now to blue in Advent. Advent itself is very short. There are only three midweek services this year.

However, just as the seasons change from summer to fall and now we move slowly into winter, so does the church move. We had readings in the last couple of weeks that spoke of the end of life and how we are to be on guard against such sins that would cause us to lose our salvation. They spoke with dire warning of the return of our Lord and King like lightening across the sky. The scriptures teach us how people seek to increase their earthly treasure while denying their gifts to others. Then Christ will require of them their soul and call them out of this earthly life. Unfortunately, the scriptures do not give a happy ending to such people. Their faith misplaced, trusting in the things of this life rather than God, brings eternal death.

Many people half-jokingly say "come Lord Jesus". They say this not as they pray before a meal but because they are tired of the pain and suffering, the degradation of society, the loss of what once was a life that brought joy and peace. That is actually the prayer of the church and the prayer of the faithful. We proclaim this in our creeds knowing that Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead. That is, He will come again to judge between those of faith and those who do not believe in the Son of God.

Advent gives the church an opportunity to hear the word of God proclaim the second coming of our Lord as we prepare for the last day. But scripture also prepares us to remember the first coming of Jesus and why He took on human flesh, becoming incarnate. From His ride into Jerusalem, the coming of the son of man with people fainting with fear, John the baptist's disciples questioning whether Jesus is the Messiah to come, to a proclamation that John is the forerunner of the Messiah. All these readings do not sound like a cute little baby in a manger.

Yet, we come to hear of our Salvation through Jesus, who prepared the way for us by his suffering death and resurrection.

Then we finally get to see our Lord, humble and lowly, born in a manger, and the life He lived and gave up for all mankind. The scriptures teach us not to focus on the worldly passions and secular rejoicing in a season of filling our barns