**Matthew 21:1-11**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” **4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, **5**  “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’ ” **6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. **8** Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” **10** And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” **11** And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

**“The Kings Comes!”**

In the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. Humanity tries to hide from his sinful madness. We can cover it up during the season of Christmas with decorations, fancy foods, and songs. We can call Black Friday shopping or traveling during the holidays, “madness.” However, troops serving in the Middle East and other parts of the world know the conflict is very real. Some considered that such evil could have an end as in World War I stating it was, “The war to end all wars.” That only smashed the devil into many little pieces throughout this world. Conflict after conflict has occurred since that time. Others believed we could make an end of it all by appealing to the “good” spirit of man. Regrettably, terrorism has put a different spin on things along with peace being put on the side burner for other more popular agendas. War continues to be written in the history of man whether we like it or not.

This is why the words of the prophet Isaiah are pleasant to hear. The promise of One who would bring an end to warring man who is unable to solve the problem of sin. The bloody fields of combat make it hard to deny the evidence. Christ had to intervene into this world taking on human flesh and blood. No one else could lead the march out of this darkness except for the light that was born in the manger by the Virgin Mary. His infant cries were sounds of hope and a true future for man as promised by God. He alone has enough strength to confront us all not by taking sides, but rather offering Himself as the sacrifice for sinners. Christ has done what no politician, pastor, or great leader could ever do against war. He comes as the king of peace.

This is peace where a judgment made comes into contact with our warring hearts and minds. Where does “war” exist? Is it merely oversees, in history books and on video games? Before the first act of war ever occurred God warned Cain saying, “…sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it"(Genesis 4:7). If the first son of man did not have the strength, but killed his brother Abel. What power lies in us to react any differently? St. Paul warned the Romans, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” The problem is that we are all too familiar with war. It is what we know best. Brothers and sisters hurt each other, husbands and wives fight over the smallest concerns, families have feuds lasting years, and even Churches have deep conflicts.

No wonder we need the One who judges and decides rightly by speaking to us with His Word. God declares none king but Christ. The Law that has gone out from Zion. Jesus’ righteous judgment lets true peace come only by repentance and faith in Him. A day cannot go by where another way of salvation justifies our life. Society does not give the okay, government cannot rule hearts, and personal freedom to “choose” only turns itself against all others. Baptism continually calls us back to the Word offering forgiveness in our warring with God and our neighbor. It means to be subject to holiness where Christ sits on a beast of burden and no white horse.

Christ is king and His peace has come out of the cross. That was “the war” ending all wars worked by grace for the sake of a sinful world. It had only one casualty, but it cost God the Father the greatest price of His. Yet, this sacrifice did end it all. He has defeated the true enemies of sin, death, and the Devil. The judgment of Jesus on the cross beats tools used for war into promises worked by God for life. If we want to try to solve our warring madness with our feelings and reason, it will lead to our own sinful destruction. Yet, the king has not forgotten about those under the cross. His Word and sacrament pours out a victory of light that spills into our dark lives and valleys. He sets Himself up as the mediator and makes us beat our weapons into useful tools of serve to honor Him and service our neighbor.

There is no need to learn the art of war with Jesus as the king. Instead, we are able to learn of a better life as soldiers of the cross. God’s Son brings a true kingdom created by His Word and invites us to pray for it as we do in the Lord’s Prayer. Isaiah knew this hopefulness declaring, “O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.” War will not cease until the people and nations finally learn by their own destruction to submit to Christ. We pray that this may happen, but thanks be to God that during a season of decorations and other holiday celebrations. There is no need to cover up our shame and sadness. We have Christ who comes to be our king of peace both now and on the day He returns, Amen. Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life eternal, Amen.