**Mark 11:1-10 (ESV)**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples [2] and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. [3] If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.' " [4] And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. [5] And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" [6] And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. [7] And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. [8] And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. [9] And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! [10] Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

**“The King Of Glory Comes”**

 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. How we begin things sets a tone for what follows. A new Church Year has arrived and the season of Advent is all about hope. Rather than being infatuated with what the world wants to see, we fix eyes of faith upon the Lord’s Coming. St. Paul says, “Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” (Romans 8:24-25). This patient faith in God shapes Advent, so Christmas ends up being more glorious than the efforts of humanity. Instead, we live from those words, “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation…” (Zechariah 9:9).

 Since the cold makes most be inside and the holiday seasons is upon us, attention naturally turns to family. However, the fact of being homesick has always haunted humanity. We can try to fool ourselves, but as a historian notes, “…our modern technology seduces us into thinking connection is easy and painless, and it also seduces us into thinking that return is easy — we've got jets, and we've got cars, and that obscures the real pain of migration and mobility. It's sort of brushed under the table, because technology makes everything look so smooth."[[1]](#footnote-1) There is nothing smooth about distance from home, changes in life with home, or even Christians no longer at home in our culture. Yet, Advent sets the tone for everything that follows. The king of glory comes look to Him with all hopefulness.

1. **Look to what Jesus has built of a home based on His humility**.
2. God’s plans disrupt all expectations.
* Eve figured her first child she had was the Savior. David believed he was going to build God’s temple.
* Homesick disciples viewed the messiah as restoring former glory back to Israel, especially on Palm Sunday.
* Jesus had other plans before heading to the Passover celebration sending two disciples to get a donkey.
* A beast of burden a work animal is what would bear this king and it did not come from Jerusalem, but a village.
1. Our expectations as sinners always seek glory.
* This time of year the world overcomes darkness by artificial lights, festive foods, and picturesque songs of, “I’m dreaming of a white Christmas.”
* Yet, we are waiting for deliverance from a depth of darkness and despair that only the light of Christ provides to any in a sinful world.
* As Isaiah the prophet asked, “Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?”
* Your king comes not in splendor or strength, but as a humble Servant building a home of righteousness based on His perfect sacrifice.
1. **Look to how God is at home with us for He comes in the flesh.**
2. Praises arise from the crowd because Jesus is the blessed Lord.
* The lowly donkey from a village brought Him before the many for the grace that this king gives pours out to all by the Gospel.
* Shouts of, “hosanna” implore “Save us now”, but at the end of the parade, they go back home forgetting how God was in the flesh for them.
* Salvation would come, but unlike any other Son of David, winning came at the price of Jesus having to shed His blood.
* God by His death was to bring heaven down to earth so forgiveness reigns and peace with God would be the blessing.
1. We begin the new Church Year just as we celebrate every Lord’s Supper.
* God comes to us on His terms and so we are at home with singing, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
* Advent is all about God’s desire to be in our midst for Jesus is Immanuel, God with us, who is now enthroned in the Sacrament.
* Rather than going high, God goes low showing everything of salvation comes from Him in, with, and under bread and wine.
* Jesus is at home with us, which His forgiveness and peace being delivered joins us to sing with all company of heaven.
1. **Look to why our eternal home from Jesus will never be shaken.**
2. After His entrance into Jerusalem, the Lord went to His rightful place.
* St. Mark tells us where that was, “And he…went into the temple” (Mark 11:11).
* The place of sacrifice was an empty home of holiness without Him who alone was the Holy One for sinners.
* Having been cast out from the temple, Jesus by His death and resurrection brought forth a new house of living stones.
* St. Paul told the Corinthians, “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”
1. God has brought us into a home called, “The Church”, a family created purely as a gift given by the Gospel.
* Much of the homesickness felt by families today also seems to be what the visible church is facing.
* The pain of distance calls the baptized to remember the better glory of being served in all circumstances by Christ’s work for us.
* While change is happening, the fact is this family of faith by God’s grace will never perish, but only grows greater in view of heaven.
* Since the church is no longer at home in our culture, consider who is faithful,”…when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.”(SC p.20).

 The first Sunday of Advent is for any who are homesick. “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation…” (Zechariah 9:9). Before we even get to Christmas, there is already an answer by the promise of God. The cross is that light shining our way to the manger. We do not find God. He has found His way to us. When Jesus came to Palm Sunday, it was God’s plan set on the cross. When our Lord comes now by His Word and Sacrament, God’s plan is to be with us. When Christ comes as Judge in clouds of glory, God’s plan brings an eternal home. The king of glory comes look to Him with all hopefulness. Amen. Now the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

1. http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/03/health/homesick-disease/index.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)