

## Devotion for Advent 2

### Psalm 85

**Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

**You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.**

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

**Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

**Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

**Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

### Isaiah 11:1-12:6

#### *The Lord's Righteous Reign*

What verse promises the Christ?

What effect will the Lord's reign have on creation?

What is the source of faith and our confidence in living?

### Luke 1:3-38

#### *John the Baptist and Jesus' births announced*

What indicates that Zechariah had long given up praying for a son?

Why was Mary's question of how this would be different from Zechariah's?

How is the promise of a child to Mary connected to Isaiah 11:1?

#### **"Your King Comes to You"**

In anticipation of Christ's birth, the prophet Isaiah prayed that the Lord would "*rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.*" When the time was right, God did just that He rent the heavens and came down, though not quite the way most people anticipated. He came down quietly—there was no earthquake—and humbly—born to a young woman in a stable in an out of the way part of one of the greatest empires the world has seen. He came humbly and quietly in keeping with the words of the prophet Zechariah who said, "*Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey.*"

Jesus' came into this world much the same way He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to be received as king; in humility, riding on a donkey. When a celebrity has a child there is a press release, a press conference, photographs and more paparazzi than you can shake a stick at. The celebrity parents are followed and their every move with their new born child is scrutinized. Thank the Lord they had no paparazzi and social media when Jesus was born. What would people have thought of the Son of God being born in a barn?

When a new Caesar began his reign, festivities were held throughout the Roman world. Pageantry is central to the celebration of power in the world, ancient and modern. Consider the great balls, concerts and other revelries that accompany the coronation of a queen, or the inauguration of a president. But Jesus is not the kind of king who needs glitz, glamour and pageantry to legitimize His rule, or make a statement about His authority. The world needs coloured lights and a lot of noise, but our Saviour and King comes quietly and gently into His kingdom and into the hearts of those over whom He would reign.

During Advent we look to see our King in places of quietness and humility. We speak to Him in prayer. We hear Him speak in the word. We receive Him in the sacraments. We see Him in our fellowship with one another. He comes righteous and humble with salvation for all to receive through faith in Him. During Advent and Christmas, we greet Him in the spirit of the words of the beloved hymn, "*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.*"

**“Oh, Come Oh Come Emmanuel”** (Public Domain)

Oh, Come, Oh, come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

### Chorus

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you O Israel!**

Oh come, our Wisdom from on high, Who ordered all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.

Oh come, oh come our Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient time gave holy law, In cloud and majesty and awe.

Oh come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, From every foe deliver them  
That trust your Mighty Power to save; Bring them in victory through the grave.

Oh come, O Key of David come, And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

Oh come, our Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night; And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Oh come, Desire of nations bind, In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Oh bid our sad divisions cease, And be yourself our King of Peace.

### **Prayer**

Gracious God, heavenly Father, King of Israel and Lord of the universe, we thank and praise you for your glorious salvation promised through Abraham and given to the world through the house of Israel and tribe of Judah in the birth of Jesus. In Him you restored the fallen line of Jesse and established a kingdom of grace that encompasses the world and which will never end. We thank you for the gospel call and the Holy Spirit, who through the word and by the washing of baptism has given us the rebirth of faith. Bless us in and through all things to put our faith in Jesus, our Immanuel. In His Name we pray. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen**

### **The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **Benediction Isaiah 12:2**

*“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.”*

### **Bible Knowledge Quiz**

Where did Mary go to visit Elizabeth?

What did Zechariah do after he named his son 'John'?

What was the name of the angel who announced John and Jesus' birth?

### **Answers to last weeks quiz**

1) In the temple. Isaiah 6:1

2) In the temple. Luke 1:8

3) In the temple. Luke 2:46