

## Summer's Coming Luke 21:25-36

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

My dear Christian friends, today we celebrate the second Sunday in Advent. Last week's Gospel was the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It was the beginning of the week which ended in Christ's death, the very reason for Christ's first Advent upon earth. Yes, He came to die for sin, to give His life as a ransom to redeem you and me. It was for this purpose He came, not to be served, but to serve; and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Christ's first Advent was a service to mankind which nobody could render – no man, no angel, not even the blood of thousands of sacrificed animals. It was during His first advent that He opened the kingdom of heaven.

Yet, Christ will return again. You know that at His second advent, He will come as King of kings and Lord of Lords. He will return as a servant no more, but with power and great glory. He will come to free His servants from the filth, the degradation, the death and the decay of life in this world.

In our text for this morning, Christ our Lord warns us against getting too secure in this life. He tells us that summer is already near, summer is coming!

Yeah, I know, you are thinking, “Just because the weather is warmer than we normally have this time of year, Pastor, does not mean that summer is coming.”

Really, it isn't? December 21 will begin winter, after winter is spring, and then comes summer. See, I told you, summer is coming!

By the way, did you hear the latest? We are not in global warming now. Nope! There is another ice age coming.

I love listening to certain people talk about climate and natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, and the like. Those claiming to be wise about these matters, who very often deny the existence and control of God, speak about these events being brought about by Mother Earth or Mother Nature who has unleashed her fury. See nature at its worst! Is it Mother Nature? Or, is it a fallen creation, groaning under the weight of sin until the revealing of the sons of men on the last day, as Paul explains it to the Romans? Dear friends, God knows exactly what is happening.

As Christians, what does it say to us? Do you recognize the signs? These are the signs that portend that the Son of Man will be coming. He will descend with a cloud and with great glory.

People talk about the pains of the earth and that the end must be drawing nigh. Many are the Christians who point to the things going on in the geopolitical scene and claim, “The end is near!” There are those who take much effort to speak out about the end coming. Some go to great lengths to try and figure out *when* that last day will be when Christ returns. They do this for a number of

reasons, but one is because they are terrified about it.

Dear friends, this fact is true – it could happen today. The end has always been near, the generation that walked with Jesus saw the end! They have all passed out of this mortal frame of tears, some to eternal glory and some to eternal torment. You will see the end too, whether it is the end of your mortal life, or whether Christ returns.

The Lord's warning in our text is for us. We are to be prepared! We are to watch and pray that we may be counted worthy to escape all these things. No, we are not to give up this life, but neither are we to cling to it heartily.

My friends, this text warns you not to be weighed down in carousing, drunkenness, and the cares of this life so that the Last Day will not come upon you unexpectedly. More appropriate words were never spoken.

As much as you'd like to deny it, you and I are caught up on the cares of this life.

At this time of the year, you need to be reminded, so, I will tell you, "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap." Dissipation is squandering of time in pursuit of the pleasures of the flesh. My friends, it is very easy to do. It is also very easy to deny that we are weighed down with keeping our flesh happy, something to drink and the cares of this life.

My dear friends, you and I are caught up in these things. No, we may not go out intending to get drunk. And no, we do not go out intending to forget about God. We may not be trying to do anything that displeases God, yet it too often happens.

If we are honest, the reason for the parties and the focus on the fun stuff, with or without alcohol, are for the purpose of forgetting about the pain, the sorrows, and the cares, and worries of life. We want to forget about life and enjoy what we have for a few moments before we get back to the grind of living.

How about this, summer's coming! No, I am not nuts! Summer is coming! Summer is the season of joy! Fresh strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, fresh veggies, and all ripe for the eating. Many are the joys of the season of summer.

Jesus compares the coming of the kingdom of God to the coming of summer! It is time of expectant hope and joy. Will it catch you unaware? Will it catch you more worried about this life than about God and the life to come? Or do you look for it joyful expectation.

My dear Christian friends, this life has been taken care of for you. Christ knows your cares in this life. He knows your sorrows and your pains - He too lived through them. His first Advent upon earth wasn't carefree and easy. Yes, some people followed Him and worshipped Him. Some other people, however, detested Him. Ultimately they spat upon Him and rejected Him. They had a mock trial and finally crucified Him.

There is something more to that story though. It is the most important fact of Christ's life. His life

was a ransom for yours as was stated earlier. Even as you sometimes lose sight of God in the cares of this life, Christ continues to care for you.

Think of a baptism and what the family does that day. They celebrate! They rejoice! They may even enjoy a drink. It is a day we rejoice in the coming of God's kingdom among you, you are reminded of God's care for YOU in this life! All the angels in heaven rejoice at a baptism – another child has been called by name, given the name of His God - Father, Son and Holy Ghost. God comes with water and His Word and claims another child as His own just, as He did at your baptism.

My friends, the cares of this life are that God cares for you. Even as a small, insignificant seeming child, you were important enough to God that He came to you personally and touched your life. Christ was present as the Word was spoken and water was applied, working a miracle of forgiveness and faith giving in baptism.

Baptism isn't the end of the festivities. Christ comes to you today, in His Word as well. He speaks to you "I forgive you for getting weighed down with the desires of your flesh and cares of this world. I forgive you for forgetting me. I know how life in human flesh can be a weight that is very burdensome, so I come to you to bring you joy – summer's coming."

He comes to you in His Word, His body and His blood. He comes to set a table before you so that you might feast, in this meal He forgives sin, gives eternal life and salvation.

Summer's coming! In fact, it is come today! There is a party here. It is a conversation with God almighty in Christ Jesus. He speaks and you listen. Then you repeat back to Him what He has said to you. You sing songs of rejoicing that He has thrown a party in your honor. He has invited you to a party in His name. In this place, He sets a table with the finest fare - His body and blood. Your heart, the dwelling place of His Spirit is swept clean. He enters and dwells within you. As He fills you, the cares of this life vanish, for He points you ahead to the coming of summer, a celebration eternal, a party without end.

Yes, summer's coming! God's kingdom is coming! You are awake at all times, in Christ comes to give you his strength I order that you might finally escape the winter of this life and stand before the Son of Man. Amen.