

Sermon Luke 21 25 36 1st Sunday in Advent Series C

Sermon: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent (Series C)

Text: Luke 21:25-36 (v.28)

Theme: Rejoice! The LORD comes!

Goal: To await Jesus with confidence and joy, because He comes as our Savior! (Addressed to the children, with pictures on the PPP)

Dear Friends, Dear Children,

Introduction: Are you happy because it's Christmas again? We just sang the lovely song "Joy to the world! The LORD has come! Let earth receive her King!" And you have just performed the nice Christmas Play "Joy for the World", expressing your happiness because Jesus came as a baby in Bethlehem. What about when Jesus comes second time in a cloud with power and great glory? Can we be happy as well and rejoice as we are waiting for Him? Yes, we can! This is what Jesus tells us in our Gospel today.

I – The joy at the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that she would be the mom of baby Jesus, in the first moment Mary became scared. But when she believed the message God was sending to her, she sang with joy: "My soul glorifies the LORD and **my spirit rejoices** in God my Savior!" (Luke 1:46).

When Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, received the visit of Mary, she rejoiced! Both women were pregnant, expecting their babies promised by God. And Elizabeth said to Mary: "Blessed are you among the women and blessed is the child you will bear. As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb **leaped for joy!**" (Luke 1:42-44)

When Jesus was born, the angels announced “good news of **great joy** that will be for all the people: Today in town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, the LORD!” (Luke 2:10-11).

The shepherds hurried off immediately to see baby Jesus. “When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child... And the shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising** God for all the things they had heard and seen.” (Luke 2:17, 20).

When the magi “saw the star (stopped over the place where Jesus was), they were **overjoyed!** They saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts.” (Matthew 2:10).

We are in the same “chain of joy” when we celebrate Christmas with joy, exchanging gifts among us, and praising God for the great gift He gave us: His only Son Jesus Christ, our Savior!

## II – The joy to have Jesus with us always

But we rejoice in Jesus not only in the Christmas season. We are happy not only because He was born as a baby. We know and we believe that Jesus grew up, performed many miracles to show that He was God among His people, and He taught His disciples, who wrote down in the Bible the teachings of Jesus. We know and we believe that wicked men killed Jesus on the cross. But even this was part of God’s plan to save us. Therefore God raised Jesus from the death and He is alive. He went back to the Father in heaven, but He promised to be with us always. And He is with us always in His Word, the Bible; in the Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion; and everywhere. Jesus lives in us and we are glad to have Jesus as our Friend and Savior. When you come to the church and to the Sunday School, you are in fellowship with Jesus and with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

### III – The joy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus

In the same way Jesus encourages us to be happy about His second coming, when he comes in clouds and great power and glory to judge the living and the dead. His angels will gather all of us into His Kingdom and we will be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Some people are scared about Jesus' second coming. We don't need to be scared when we trust in Jesus. Maybe in the first moment we will be "greatly troubled" like Mary when the angel appeared to her (Luke 1:29); and like the shepherds, who became "terrified" when the glory of the LORD shone around them (Luke 2:6). But after the first impact, joy will overflow from our heart, because we will see Jesus face to face! When Jesus taught about difficult times for His disciples, He said: "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. Because great will be your reward in heaven" (Luke 6:23). And He says in our text: "At that time you will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." We shall not run away, we shall *not be downcast at the appearance of these signs, but look up in joy, hope and trust!* (CSSB 1590).  
Jesus comes as Savior to His elected!

Conclusion: Be happy and rejoice at Christmas not only because of the gifts and sweets that you receive; not only because of the lights and nice decorations; but because Jesus came once as a baby to be our Savior, He comes always in His Word to be our Savior, and He will come someday in the future to be our Savior and to take us all to His Kingdom. Amen.