**“Those Days”**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 19:28-40

 Advent 1, Nov. 27/28, 2021

As Advent begins, let’s again hear one of the great Advent (**preparatory**) texts from Jeremiah 33: “**Behold** (or “**lookie here**”), the **days are coming, declares the Lord**, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In **those days and at that time** I will cause a Righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In **those days** Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the **name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’**”

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

**Bridge**

Some days are more memorable than others. In 15 years, I won’t remember what I did, say, a week ago Thursday or Friday, but what I did today, that I will remember for the rest of my days upon this earth. It’s possible (and I really do think it’s possible) that I’ll remember this day also in Heaven. I got to help baptize my grand-daughter. We all did: her parents, family came to help, our Saturday congregation came to help, Herman was here on the organ. We gave Karsynn the most significant day of her, at least, **earthly life** **…** and maybe her **eternal one**. She was adopted by God as His child (with His name and the start of the benefits of His Son’s promise that this makes her, now, formally a disciple). She’ll have to continue growing in this **“being a disciple” thing** as she’s taught (from now on) to observe and enjoy all things that Jesus commanded, but today’s her **re-birth day, baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection** as Romans 6 says, **“saved”** this way as 1st Peter says**, reborn “by water and the Spirit”** as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3. My grand-daughter will (I know) have plenty of **memorable days in her life**, but don’t any of us let her forget (or diminish) the one here that will have **set the course for every other one … and for all eternity**. God’s promises to her-in-particular today must be reminded her for as long as any of us know her on this planet. She must **never forget** (as the church has passed down to us in credal form minimally 1,700 years ago in “one baptism for the remission of sin”) her acknowledging of Ephesians 4’s “**one faith and one baptism**”. The days are coming when (Philippians says) the “good work that God began in” Karsynn this day “He will **bring to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ. This, **it says**, you and I and Karsynn can **be sure of**”.

**Text**

There are **other days more significant than most**. The reason why we who are **baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection have the hope that’s certain is because** **He came to give us exactly that**. As foretold (therefore promised), the Christmas remembrance is **because of the** “fulfillment in it” of what had been told would happen in the world … told the “house of Israel and house of Judah”. For **their** “**salvation**” and “**security** **/ HOPE that would be made sure” this way**, God the Father, “**caused** a Righteous Branch to spring up for David [(Christmas)] Who’d execute justice and righteousness in the land.” The history of **accomplishment** was **God executing “justice” for sin upon His own Son**. And Jesus submitted to the death that we deserve (it’s why He came), the Father **making of it upon Him** “**righteousness**” for any **receiving it** (**baptized into it** and **expressing that great blessing to themselves by an amen of faith**). And God made **our big day** to be **attached** to “**those days**” and all the promises of **what He’ll make of it**.

And “**those days**” can be narrowed to 3 in Good Friday to Easter, or 7 in that holy final week, or to 33 years in Jesus’ earthly walk all the way to the event of that week and that weekend, or to the 4,000 of promise since announced in Genesis 3 with every event that God then used to make that Righteous **Branch** **from David’s lineage to get here** (a flood and Noah’s son Shem through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and then Jacob’s line freed from slavery in Egypt, and housed in Judah and Israel, then born through David’s descendent Mary, delivered for the very moment of a **last breath as God become man to take that last breath on a cross in sacrifice.**

It's why the Season of Advent gets **begun** with **the final goal getting accomplished in “those days” remembered**. Palm Sunday’s ride **narrows the days** to the start of the precious week of our being saved, culminating on Friday and Saturday and then that resurrection Sunday morning.

Christmas? Well, **what day of the week** did it fall upon to remember? **Was it** December 25th? We don’t know. But it’s remembered for its **beginning of the fulfilled promises of the Righteous Branch of God and “springing” from the fallen humanity of David**.

And why is that **fulfilled-promise** important to us 2,000 years from His coming? For **HOPE CERTAIN** in baptismal promises made. It is for **HOPE CERTAIN** that Christ will return as promised. Angels told disciples at the Ascension that “This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will **come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven**”. And it is for **HOPE CERTAIN** that He will (**still and with consistency**) “be with us” in the ways, especially, that He's promised to be “until the end of the age”.

## Application

I plan to **remember this day more than most any other**. Not, so much, because it’s a **cute day** when my grand-daughter makes her debut in a pretty white baptismal gown and people (with me) can “ooh and ahh” about her as is, of course, the case. But **I am thrilled** by **God’s promise upon her specifically**: **“I baptize you into My own name (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)” and, God says also, “into the death and rising of My own Son for your sake. You are now My adopted child, and that in a way that not all upon this planet are or, tragically, come to be. All promises for Good in the Words of Scripture are now yours, Karsynn. You have a Shepherd / you are a sheep of Jesus’ fold / He your Great Shepherd Who saved you by water and Spirit because of His great love for you and bloodshed poured out upon a cross and with your bond to it / His gift to you simply bestowed with the sprinkling of water and Word: redemption with “newness of life” washed into you by promise.” ….**

The baptized are baptized **into Advent** with Advent then **giving way to Christmas** and Christmas **giving way to Easter** and Easter **to His return to make all things finally new and perfect … Paradise**. So **we** **trust Him in that …** and **it is our faith**.

“Blessed **is** the **King who comes in the name of the Lord, our righteousness and bringing that to us!**” It is **our profession**. And so we begin Advent as people **also** **lining the streets of the Lord’s’ parade route to His sacrifice for us**, ourselves crying-out: “Hosanna”, which means save **us** as we **know You have Jesus**. **“Those days” we remember above all others**. +In +Jesus’ name. Amen.