

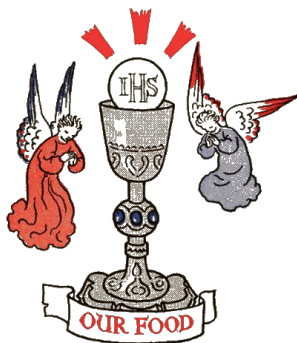
Advent

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the beginning of the Church's year. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." We think of Our Lord Jesus coming in three different ways:

Jesus came on the first Christmas Day when He was born in a stable in Bethlehem;



Jesus comes to us in Holy Communion;



Jesus will come at the last day to be our Judge.



We observe Advent to help us prepare our hearts to receive Jesus. Each Sunday in Advent we light a new candle to mark our journey towards the arrival of Jesus. As we light each candle we remember those who came before us to prepare the pathway of the Lord:
the Patriarchs and Prophets of the Old Testament, John the Baptist,
and Mary the Mother of Our Lord.

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

(St Matthew 21:1–13)

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives. There Jesus sent two of the disciples on ahead with these instructions: “Go to the village there ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied up with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to me. And if anyone says anything, tell him, ‘The Master needs them’; and then he will let them go at once.”

This happened in order to make come true what the prophet had said:

“Tell the city of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you!
He is humble and rides on a donkey
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”



So the disciples went and did what Jesus had told them to do: they brought the donkey and the colt, threw their cloaks over them, and Jesus got on. A large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout, “Praise to David's Son! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise be to God!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was thrown into an uproar. “Who is he?” the people asked. “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee,” the crowds answered.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple



Jesus went into the Temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons, and said to them, “It is written in the Scriptures that God said,
‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer.’

But you are making it a hideout for thieves!”



Reflection



No doubt you will recognise today's Gospel reading.

We also read it on the feast of _____, the Sunday before Easter.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us to read it on the First Sunday in Advent.

Why do you think that is? What do we learn about Jesus from this story? How is the story connected to the theme of Advent and Christmas? Write a short reflection answering these questions:

Hidden Message Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle and circle them. The words can be right to left, up and down. Hidden between, or touching those words, are six more hidden words. Circle those six words in a different color and write them in the correct order at the bottom of the page to unscramble the hidden message.

BRANCHES

COLT

DISCIPLES

DONKEY

JERUSALEM

KING

MOUNT

NAZARETH

OLIVES

PALM

N	I	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	R	E
O	K	O	M	A	H	O	S	A	N	N	A	R
M	R	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	L	I
U	T	P	R	A	E	S	O	F	K	I	N	G
D	I	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	L	U	P
D	U	E	T	H	E	O	T	O	V	E	N	I
O	L	I	V	E	S	L	M	O	U	N	T	E
N	D	O	S	O	N	T	M	A	L	I	Q	U
K	A	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	Q	U	I
E	V	A	T	N	I	S	S	I	S	M	O	D
Y	I	M	E	U	M	I	P	S	U	S	T	R
M	D	L	U	M	S	A	N	D	I	T	P	R
S	P	A	L	M	S	N	U	L	L	U	M	Q
S	E	N	D	R	E	F	E	U	G	I	A	M

Hidden Message:



How many of these words appear in today's reading from the St Matthew's Gospel? [m.](#)
Read the passage again and underline any words you recognise from the word search!