

CHRIST HAS COME – OUR PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING

Christ Our King Has Come!

Luke 1:67-79

Faith Church of Linden

By Daniel Patz on December 21, 2025

The following notes are a draft of my sermon. These are not my pulpit notes or a manuscript I use to preach with but something I type up before writing out my “pulpit notes”. I hope they are helpful.

Text: Luke 1:67–79 (ESV)

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, 68
“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71 that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Introduction

*No light, no hope, no strength for duties spring,
Where Jesus is not Prophet, Priest, and King.
No light to see the way, unless he teach,
No joyful hope, save in his blood we reach,
Nor strength, unless his royal arm he stretch.*

These words from Ralph Erskine remind us that we desperately need Christ in all His offices. Over the past two weeks we have considered Him as Prophet and as Priest.

This morning, as we draw near to Christmas, we turn to the strength of a King—the Horn of God’s Salvation.

Christmas clearly brings us to Christ our King. Think of the carols we sing year after year, how they proclaim this truth with wonder and joy:

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

- “O come, all ye faithful... Come and behold Him born the King of angels... Yea, Lord, we greet Thee... Christ the Lord, the newborn King.”
- “Hark! the herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the newborn King.’”
- “Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King... He rules the world with truth and grace.”
- “What Child is this... This, this is Christ the King... The King of kings salvation brings.”
- “Angels from the realms of glory... Worship Christ, the newborn King.”
- “The First Noel... Born is the King of Israel.”

These verses beautifully capture the wonder of the Incarnation—the eternal King humbly born as a child.

This morning I want to look at Christ as King from a different angle: a prophecy spoken right before His birth, at the birth of His forerunner, John the Baptist. Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, breaks into a song of praise that points us directly to the coming King.

This morning Zechariah answers three questions for us:

1. **What is God doing at Christmas?** God visits to redeem.
2. **How is God doing it?** God raises a mighty King.

3. **Why is God doing it?** To show mercy, keep promises, and make worshippers.

1. What is God doing at Christmas?

God visits to redeem.

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people” (v. 68).

The language of divine “visitation” echoes the great redemption story of the Old Testament. When Israel groaned under slavery in Egypt, God told Moses, “I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt” (Exodus 3:16; cf. Exodus 4:31). God’s visitation meant rescue, deliverance, salvation. Just as God came down to Egypt to redeem Israel from slavery, He has now come down in person to redeem us from a far worse bondage.

Zechariah declares that God is doing the same thing again—only greater. This redemptive visitation includes two central realities:

- **Rescue from enemies** (vv. 71, 74): “that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us... that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies...”
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- **Forgiveness of sins** (v. 77): John will “give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins.”

At Christmas, God came to earth to redeem! This is the good news of great joy the angel announced to the shepherds (Luke 2:10).

Oh, how we need this. Zechariah’s world knew fierce political enemies—Herod, Rome—but our greatest enemies are sin, Satan, and death itself. We are enslaved, oppressed, and powerless against them. Christmas declares that God has not left us in our misery. He has visited us in person to set us free.

Do you feel the weight of your enemies—sin, Satan, death? Christmas says: God has visited you personally to redeem you.

2. How is God doing it at Christmas?

God raises a Mighty King.

“...and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David” (v. 69).

In the ancient world, the horn of a bull or ram was the picture of strength and victory. Picture a massive ox lifting its horn—that’s the strength of our salvation in this mighty King God is raising up.

In Scripture, the “horn” is a picture of strength and royal power (e.g., Deut. 33:17; 1 Sam. 2:10; Ps. 89:17, 24; Ps. 132:17). To raise up a horn is to raise up a king whose mighty arm brings God’s salvation.

And this King is “in the house of his servant David.” God is fulfilling His ancient promise of an everlasting throne (2 Samuel 7:12–16).

The angel made this explicit to Mary: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:30–33).

Scripture repeatedly testifies that Jesus is this promised King:

- Isaiah 9:6–7 – “For to us a child is born... and the government shall be upon his shoulder... Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David...”
- Daniel 7:13–14 – The Son of Man receives an everlasting dominion (and Jesus is the Son of Man—Matt. 16:28).
- Jeremiah 23:5 – “I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely...”
- Zechariah 9:9 – “Rejoice greatly... behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he...” (quoted in Matt. 21:5).
- Psalm 2 – The anointed King whom the nations rage against.
- The Gospels – Jesus affirms before Pilate, “You say that I am a king” (e.g., Luke 23:3).
- 1 Corinthians 15:25 – “He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.”
- Matthew 28:18–20 – “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
- Ephesians 1:22 – God “put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things.”
- 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16 – “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Even in heaven, the Lamb who was slain sits on the throne (Rev. 5).

Israel’s kings were called to three great tasks:

- conquer God’s enemies,
- shepherd and reign over God’s people in righteousness,
- and build a house for God’s presence.

Jesus, the greater David, has fulfilled and is fulfilling all three. As 1 John 3:8 declares, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

1 John 3:5 - "You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin."

1 John 4:9 - "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

Where do you need the strength of this mighty King today? Jesus is reigning even now with all authority.

3. Why is God doing this at Christmas?

To show mercy, keep promises, and make worshippers.

Zechariah gives us three profound reasons:

First, to show the tender mercy of our God (vv. 72, 78). "...to show the mercy promised to our fathers... because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high."

Mercy is God's compassionate, covenant love that moves Him to act for the miserable. Mercy moved Him. It is the same mercy celebrated throughout Scripture: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us..." (Eph. 2:4); "His mercy is over all that he has made" (Ps. 145:9); "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end" (Lam. 3:22–23).

Second, to remember His holy covenant and keep His promises (vv. 70, 72–73). "...as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old... to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham."

God is faithful. Promises bound Him. Every promise to the patriarchs, to David, through the prophets—He will not forget a single word.

Third, to enable us to serve and worship Him forever (vv. 74–75). "...that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days."

The goal of redemption is not merely escape from enemies, but a life of fearless, holy worship. Worship is the goal. God saves us so that we might belong to Him and live for Him—all our days.

Ephesians 2:10 ESV For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 ESV But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Mercy moved Him, promises bound Him, worship is the goal.

Is your life marked by fearless, holy service to God? That's why He came.

Conclusion

He came and He will come – The King Jesus

Revelation 19:11-16 ESV Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. (13) He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. (14) And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. (15) From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. (16) On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Brothers and sisters, we need this Horn of Salvation—this mighty King—Jesus Christ.

Christmas answers Zechariah's song: God visits to redeem. God raises a mighty King in David's house—King Jesus. God does it all to show tender mercy, keep every promise, and turn us into lifelong worshippers.

He has defeated sin, Satan, and death. He has forgiven us, reconciled us to God, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places. He rules over us with perfect righteousness and grace, protecting us and providing everything we need to serve Him.

If you do not yet know Him as your King, hear Zechariah's song afresh: the sunrise has visited us from on high. Bow before this King today. Repent, believe the gospel, and surrender your life to Him. He is a merciful King who receives all who come.

And for those of us who are His, let us continue to follow, serve, worship, trust, and give thanks. Let every heart prepare Him room. Let us live as loyal subjects of the King who was born in Bethlehem, who died and rose for us, and who reigns forever.

So bow before this King—or keep bowing—and serve Him without fear, all your days.

Come, let us adore Him—Christ the Lord, our newborn King. Amen.