"The Mountain of the Lord" Advent 1

1) Isaiah 2:1-5

2) December 1, 2019

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

(Intro change) Let's talk about the weather this morning.

- Snow and wind
- Winter storm warning
- Bad roads traveling into church
- If you're trying to head home after a long Thanksgiving weekend visiting family; or if you're trying to get back to school
 - It will be difficult to make it home
 - If you can't travel, you'll end up missing work or school on Monday

God didn't want his people to miss something – the Mountain of the Lord. It's what Isaiah describes in our lesson here in v. 2 which I'll read in just a moment. It's a place where we hear about the Lord's ways; and where we're told about the Lord's peace.

We are in the season of Advent now. It's a road that we're traveling on the way to Christmas.

If you've ever lived in a mountain town, on a nice sunny day, you walk out the front door and you can't miss it – there's the mountain! But when there is snow or fog, as we talk about around here as well, there is low visibility. And that mountain that was once clear, is no longer visible.

Isaiah talks about that Mountain of the Lord –

 $V\ 2-$ In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

What is the mountain of the Lord that God is talking about here? Well...it can be one of three things –

- The temple in Jerusalem
 - o Corner of the city

- o The place where people would go to worship
- o Priests offered sacrifices regularly
- Heaven
 - The place where we'll worship the Lord forever
- Our local churches
 - The place where God's Word is proclaimed regularly

What does it mean that the mountain of the Lord's temple is there...and all nations will stream to it?

Put yourself into the shoes of Isaiah's audience. Worship was going to change for them significantly. They wouldn't be able to worship for a time.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days

4

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.