

1st SUNDAY of Advent
(Yr C)

Reading 1

Citation: Jeremiah, Chap. 33, Verses 14-16
Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Jeremiah is forecasting the arrival of the Messiah without putting a deadline on this event. It is a description of the very positive impact it will have on all of Israel. This is one basis of the idea of the Messiah that was commonly held in Jesus' day. We know differently, now. Yet, the promise of the prophecy is just as important to us, today, as it was then. Be as excited and positive a proclaimer as was Jeremiah.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming,
says the LORD, (very short pause)
when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. (short pause)

In those days,
in that time,
I will raise up for David a just shoot; (short pause)
he shall do what is right and just in the land. (emphasize "he", "right" and "just") (short pause)

In those days
Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; (very short pause)
this is what they shall call her: (very short pause)
"The LORD our justice." (proud; firm; convinced)

The Word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: Thessalonians, Chap. 3, Verse 12 – Chap. 4, Verse 2
Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

Paul is both insisting and urging this community to make “Love” as Jesus taught it the keystone of their lives. You do so, too, for your fellow disciples. Let your listeners hear your own conviction in this idea.

A Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters:

May the Lord make you increase
and abound in love for one another
and for all,
just as we have for you,

(very short pause)

so as to strengthen your hearts,
to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus
with all his holy ones.
Amen.

(parenthetical expression)

(short pause)

(raise volume and mean it!) (pause)

Finally,
brothers and sisters,
we earnestly ask and exhort you
in the Lord Jesus
that, as you received from us
how you should conduct yourselves to please God
-- and as you are conducting yourselves --
you do so even more.

(very short pause)

(sincerely said, loving)

(sound earnest and exhorting!)

(parenthetical expression)

(disregard the comma)

(Paul is exhorting the “how”)

(parenthetical expression)

(almost pleading and a bit louder)

For you know what instructions we gave you
through the Lord Jesus.

(parenthetical expression)

The Word of the Lord.

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Gospel

Citation: Luke, Chap. 21, Verses 25-28, 34-36
Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Jesus is urging His disciples to accept the changes in the world that are coming because they are coming for the welfare of humanity. He cautions them to avoid succumbing to the guile of the world and worldly attractions. Jesus describes the future as one of immense change and warns His followers to remain believers of His Word. Given our world today, with all its changes, you be Jesus urging your fellow pilgrims to remain faithful to Him and His teachings.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples,
There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,
and on earth
nations will be in dismay,
perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

(very short pause)
(change voice tone [up/question?])

(short pause)

People will die of fright
in anticipation of what is coming upon the world,
for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then
they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud
with power and great glory.

(short pause)

But when these signs begin to happen,
stand erect
and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.

(almost commanding)
(commanding)
(almost parenthetic) (short pause)

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness
and the anxieties of daily life,
and that day catch you by surprise like a trap."

(warning tone)
(voice goes down)

For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth.

(very short pause)

Be vigilant at all times
and pray
that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent
and to stand before the Son of Man."

(voice goes up slightly)
(voice goes down – serious)

The Gospel of the Lord.