

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
CYCLE C**

**FIRST READING**

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

33:14-16

I, the Lord, say this:

The time is coming when I will keep the promise I made  
to the people of Israel and Judah.  
I will choose a ruler from the family of David,  
and he will be completely fair to everyone.  
Judah will be safe.  
Jerusalem will have peace, and it will be named,  
“The Lord our Protector!”

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

25:4-5, 8-9

*R. (1b) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

Show me your paths  
and teach me to follow;  
guide me by your truth  
and instruct me.  
You keep me safe,  
and I always trust you.

*R. (1b) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

You are honest and merciful,  
and you teach sinners



how to follow your path.  
You lead humble people  
to do what is right  
and to stay on your path.

*R. (1b) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

## ALLELUIA

Psalm, 85:8

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
And grant us your salvation.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Your redemption is near at hand.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Strange things will happen to the sun, moon, and stars.  
The nations on earth will be afraid of roaring sea and tides,  
and they won’t know what to do.  
People will be so frightened that they will faint  
because of what is happening to the world.  
Every power in the sky will be shaken.

“Then the Son of Man will be seen,  
coming in a cloud with great power and glory.  
When all of this starts happening,  
stand up straight and be brave.  
You will soon be set free.



“Don’t spend all of your time thinking about eating or drinking  
or worrying about life.

If you do, the final day will suddenly catch you like a trap.  
That day will surprise everyone on earth.

“Watch out and keep praying that you can escape  
all that is going to happen  
and that the Son of Man will be pleased with you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Children’s Liturgy shared by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ  
[www.adorers.org](http://www.adorers.org)



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***We can give the gift of God's love.***  
(Review Advent Activities Section)

**Prayer:** Dear God, we are so happy as we begin this Advent Season. A time that reminds us Your Son, Jesus, came to earth as a baby, just like us. And Jesus, all his life, told us about Your great love for us and told us we should love one another. Help us see ways **We can give the gift of God's love.** AMEN

**Readings:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

**Reflection:** The Scripture readings remind us: "The days are coming..." when we will see "the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and glory." Advent focuses on celebrating the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Messiah: Jesus. The Scriptures recall: Our ancestors in faith, waited for a Messiah and yet, many didn't recognize Jesus as the Son of Man. Now, we, too, are waiting for Jesus to come again in "power and glory." A Messiah with "power and glory" not of our expectations and understanding but of God's. No one could have imagined it would be God's only Son. The stories and symbols of our journey to understand our God, engaged in our history and always present in our hearts, reflects the depth and breath of this mystery. Our God is truly a God of love, justice and peace. Advent challenges us (1) to deepen our "love for one another;" (2) to "stand erect and raise [our] heads because [our] redemption is at hand."

**Activities:** Write on a large paper: "The days are coming..." and under that, the word, Advent. On the backside write: **We can give the gift of God's love.**

Engage the children in a time of sharing about 'what is coming.' Move them to talk about the many ways our joy, excitement and expectations about preparing for gifts and family gatherings **isn't** what many children and family are 'preparing for.'

Remind them that throughout our faith history, God's people struggled to remember the poor, the outcasts, the sick and forgotten as being part of God's plan for redemption/salvation. For that reason, God sent us prophets, like Jeremiah, Isaiah, Baruch and others. Finally, God sent Jesus into the world to be **GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR!**

Advent means "coming" and Advent 'comes' before Christmas because the Church wants us to 'pre-



pare for' acts of love and justice, gestures of kindness and care. Can we feel, in our hearts, a desire to reach out to those whose 'coming days' are bleak because of poverty, illnesses, violence and injustices? Many children and adults, near and far, need the GIFT OF OUR LOVE OF JESUS.

"We can give the gift of God's love" (the reverse side of the poster) when we share things we really don't use or need with those in need. "We can give the gift of God's love" when we are friendly not only to those we like but also to those we find difficult to like. "We can give the gift of God's love" when we show kindness to those who don't have friends. "We can give the gift of God's love" when we give money, food, clothing or toys to special collections.

**To Conclude the Session:** Have a gift wrapped box with these words printed around it or on top of it: We can give the gift of God's love. Have a small Christmas card ready—if you have time the children can decorate or color homemade cards—for each child to sign, or one larger one for the group. Find out if there are special people they would like to send the cards to each week. This first week, as catechist, if the children can't think of someone, volunteer to send them to children/family members in the hospital.

As you begin your prayer time, remind the children of those who are "waiting" for God's love to fill their lives with basic needs. If the children named some one for the card(s), mention their names and at that time have the children place their signed card in the gift box as part of the prayer ritual.

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**HOME ACTIVITY:** Have the children either make or bring a card from home for distribution. You can send a short note home with the children about your theme and projects. Perhaps you could copy the Advent Activities sheet to be sent home as well.

**Each Sunday of Advent KEY WORDS** TAKEN FROM ALL THREE SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS will be provided. Use the words for 'jump starting' possible word games, tie-in to songs, stories and crafts you may choose.

**KEY WORDS:** Jeremiah, fulfill the promise, Israel, Judah, David a just shoot, Jerusalem, Justice, Love for one another, holiness, signs, Son of Man, on a cloud, with power and glory, redemption.

