FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Cycle B

FIRST READING

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters:
My prayer is that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
Will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

I never stop thanking my God
For being kind enough to give you Christ Jesus,
who helps you speak and understand so well.
Now you are certain that everything we told you
About our Lord Christ Jesus is true.

You are not missing out on any blessings,
as you wait for him to return.
And until the day Christ does return,
he will keep you completely innocent.

God can be trusted,
and he chose you to be partners with his Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM 185:8, 9, 109

R. (Sirach 36:16) Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

I will listen to you, Lord God,
Because you promise peace
To those who are faithful
And no longer foolish.

R. Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

You are ready to rescue
Everyone who worships you,
So that you will live with us
In all of your glory.

R. Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

Love and loyalty
will come together;
goodness and peace
will unite.

R. Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

ALLELUIA Psalm 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



GOSPEL

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 13:33: 3-7

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Watch out and be ready!
You don't know when the time will come.
It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while
and places his servants in charge of everything.
He tells each of them what to do,
and he orders the watch men to be on their guard."

"So be on your guard!
You don't know when the master of the house will come back.
It could be in the evening or at midnight
or before dawn or in the morning.
But if he come suddenly, don't let him find you asleep.
I tell everyone just what I have told you.
Be on your guard!"

The gospel of the Lord

Children's Liturgy shared by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ
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Adorers of the Blood of Christ
UNITED STATES REGION



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Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
Jesus, you want us to be ready so we will see you when you come, even if we don't know when. I want to be ready and need your help. Come Lord Jesus into my heart. Amen

Readings:
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Psalm 85:8, 9, 10
Mark 13:33: 3-7

Catechist::
This season of Advent is a time of preparation, waiting and longing for the coming of Jesus. Today, the Church celebrates a New Year, that is, the Liturgical New Year, Advent Cycle B of the three cycles of Sunday readings. The seasons of Advent and Christmas celebrate the "coming" of Jesus. The preparation during Advent has a three-fold purpose. The Coming of Jesus in the flesh, Immanuel, "God with us";The Coming of Jesus in the Eucharist, "this is My Body, My Blood" food for the journey; and the preparation for the Second Coming, Parousia "presence" or "arrival" of Jesus Coming to make way for His faithful Servants— those who keep watch. The Liturgical color of Advent is Purple, or in some parishes a bluepurple, signals penitential, thus the Preparation. This concept is difficult for children to understand and the focus is usually the preparation for Christmas—the Christ Child. For adults the chant of "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" speaks of the longing for Christ' return. For children it is a Christmas Carol.

Be ready for the coming of the Lord! People are now getting excited. Christmas will soon be here! In what ways do we see people getting ready to celebrate Christmas? (what sights, sounds, TV ads, outward signs). What is Christmas about? What do we celebrate? (lots of gifts, Santa, or the birth of Jesus). What changes do you see in church? Does something look different? (color purple, four advent candles, music).



The sights, sounds, music and TV we see outside, are not the same as the sights, sounds, and music we see inside the Church. In today's Gospel Jesus tells us to be prepared. To get ready. What are we supposed to get ready for? (this may seem a trick question for some children).

Each year the Church invites us to remember and celebrate the Birth of Jesus, God's gift to us. Each one of us has a birthday – the day we were born. Jesus was born and grew up just like. When Jesus was older he taught many people many things about God. Jesus taught the little children that God loves each one of us. When we prepare to celebrate our birthday we get really excited days before and it is gets really hard to wait. We sing a special song. We open special gifts.

1. How do you prepare for Christmas? Do you do special things together as a family? Do you have special people come over to celebrate?

2. During this time of Advent we are given four whole weeks to prepare for the Coming of Jesus. A long time to wait. To help us remember how long we need to wait, a special decoration is made, called an Advent wreath. Four candles placed around a circle of evergreen. Three candles are purple, like the colors in church, and one candle is pink. When the pink one is lit, we know it is not long before Christmas is here. *The Light of Christ burns evergreen with Life in a circle of love that is never-ending.*



Activity:
Make a paper Advent wreath. Construction paper works best. Cut our four yellow flames, three purple and one pink rectangle (1"x 5 ½"), using half sheet of green (8 1/2"x11") cut corners to make it and oval or cut strips of green paper to glue in front of candles, and one white sheet of (8 1/2"x11") for background.

As a family, sit at the table for dinner, light the Advent candle, and pray together.

Psalm response: O Lord, give Peace to those who wait.



