

SUNDAY, Nov., 28, 2021

The First Sunday of Advent

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

FOCUS: In this graced Advent time, prepare for Jesus' coming.

Advent is a season of preparation. It is easy to lose Advent in the swirl of Christmas lights and decorations. In this time of anticipation as we consider Christ's incarnation – his coming in the flesh – we also await his return in glory. Be ready: *stand erect and raise your heads*. Prepare your hearts to receive him. Don't miss the grace of Advent.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah prophesies the coming of a promised messiah for the house of Israel and Judah. Saint Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to conduct themselves in a way pleasing to God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples to stay vigilant and be prepared for the day when they will see the Son of Man *coming in a cloud with power and great glory*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we enter this holy season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to receive the Messiah. With joyful hope, let us offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the grace of God continue to strengthen and nourish her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God guide their hearts in making just and wise decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill and all who bear the burden of sickness, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring them healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in this faith community discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enter into the fullness of life in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, please hear and answer our prayers this day in your wisdom. We ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.