

Scripture Readings for the First Sunday of Advent ~ Year C

1st Reading ~ Jeremiah 33:14-16

- ❖ “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise...”
With this opening statement in today’s first reading, the longings of our heart should be stirred with eager anticipation, just as it moved those who first heard this message from the prophet Jeremiah. God is faithful and does marvellous things to rescue a beloved people from the bondage of sin and death. God has acted and continues to act, in ways perceptible and imperceptible, bringing us salvation. Do we dare to hope in God’s promise of fulfillment, even when confronted with what, at times, seems like overwhelming odds? Hope we must!

2nd Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

- ❖ In this excerpt from St. Paul’s letter to the early Christian community in Thessalonica, the apostle urges the people to remain faithful in response to the grace of God by continuing to care for one another in loving devotion. The community’s holiness becomes a sign of eager anticipation of the Lord’s return.

Gospel ~ Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

- ❖ Drawing attention to the end-of-time theme that is presented during the first half of the season of Advent, our Gospel seems foreboding and perhaps frightening. Yet, the Gospel is always Good News. The intention of the evangelist is “to reassure the faithful that God’s promised salvation will indeed come to pass.”¹ Rather than become despondent and overwhelmed in the face of adversity, the disciple of Jesus is called to remain steadfast in hope. The characteristic anticipation and joy which marks this season of Advent must permeate the human heart, allowing us: “to hear the divine promises, to accept the responsibility fighting against the inner and outer darkness, to proceed without fear, head held high, to meet the One who has come and is coming.”²
Come, Lord Jesus! Do not delay!

¹ Normand Bonneau, The Sunday Lectionary: Ritual Word, Paschal Shape. (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998), 132.

² Days of the Lord: The Liturgical Year. Volume 1: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany. (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1993), 57.