

# The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



## First Sunday of Advent: Year C November 28, 2021 Volume 2: Issue 1

### Welcome

Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Happy New Year! Today we begin the new liturgical year – Year C. Our Theme for this week is: The Inbreaking of Hope

In the book of Jeremiah, the situation was dire. There was the threat of war with the Babylonians. The people were unfaithful to God and made futile alliances with other nations. In the midst of the chaos and hardship, God's message delivered by Jeremiah was rejected by those who only wanted to hear good news.

Today, we are told that the goal of life is to live without problems, and chaos. However, as Christians, it is our mission to engage these realities and not hide away from them. For it is in the midst of all the chaos, and fear and destruction that God breaks in and offers hope.

Jesus told the disciples that as they see the signs of the end of time, they are to raise their heads and look and they will see their redemption coming. Jesus enters our world to challenge and transform the chaos that is present, and invites us to join him on this journey of liberation. It is not easy street, and it is not anxiety-free living – instead it is the sacrificial life of his followers who must grow in love, and faithfulness, even as we wait.

As we light a new candle on our Advent wreath each Sunday, may we see it as the growth of hope that challenges the dark of despair, fear and chaos. Together, may we prepare ourselves to receive Christ who is the light of our hope, coming to challenge and transform all lives and all situations, and to bring true and lasting peace to our world.

Blessings,

The Sunday School Team



### Collect & Readings

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

St. Luke 21:25-36

Psalms 25:1-9

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#### Memory Verses St. Luke 21: 27-28

“...Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

## The First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16



The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Jeremiah prophesied of a time of restoration when God will raise up a Saviour to rescue God's people.

### Questions:

- Why was Jeremiah arrested and locked up?
- What was the danger that the nation faced?
- How was God going to rescue them?

### Bible Study: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In chapter 32, Jeremiah prophesied God's words to the people of Israel, but they did not want to hear it. Jeremiah told them the truth – that they were going to be conquered by the Babylonians.

Zedekiah, the king of Israel, was greatly upset at Jeremiah's words. He tried to shut him up. Jeremiah was arrested and locked up in a cistern and then in the king's courtyard.

But Jeremiah's message from God also included the assurance that one day God would restore the people of Israel. God told Jeremiah to buy a field – even at a time when the nation faced disaster – because one day, he would return to it.

In today's lesson, Jeremiah was still locked up, and the nation still faced disaster, but God spoke a message of restoration and salvation through Jeremiah, and gave the people hope.

A day was coming when the wrongdoing of the nation would come to an end. God would raise up someone to bring the sins of the nation to an end, and to restore justice and righteousness in the land. Peace and safety would return to the nation. Christians believe that this righteous branch is Jesus.

### Activity:

#### The Prophet Jeremiah Bible Video For Kids

<https://kids.sharefaith.com/assets/the-prophet-jeremiah-bible-video-for-kids-238355>

## Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \* let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \* let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \* and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \* for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \* for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \* remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \* therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \* and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \* to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.



The Psalmist places his trust in God, but he prays that God would not let his enemies get the better of him, which would be a sign of God's punishment. All who follow God's teaching and guidance will experience love and faithfulness and not punishment. But when he falls astray, he prays that God will be gracious and forgiving.

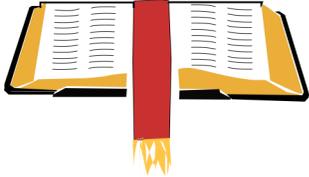


# The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Paul prayed that God would increase the holiness, and strengthen the love and faithfulness of the Christians in Thessalonica.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.



**Questions:**  
  
Where was Paul sending this letter?  
  
What specific thing did Paul do for them?  
  
Do we always remember to pray for others?

### Bible Study: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Paul writing to the Christians in Thessalonica, prayed for God to allow him, Silas and Timothy to join them. They needed to continue to teach them the lessons of faith.

While they awaited their face to face encounter and for the return of Jesus Christ, he prayed that God would intercede in the lives of the Thessalonians.

It was his prayer that God would allow their love to grow and grow and grow (towards each other and others); that they would increase in holiness, and; that they would be blameless.

It is God who gives the grace of love, holiness and forgiveness.

**Activity:**  
  
Identify a friend who is in another parish or even country and write a letter to them. In the letter, encourage them, and ask God for all the good things you would like God to do for them.



# St. Luke 21:25-36

Jesus told his disciples to look for the signs that the kingdom of God is near. The events that may seem to be devastation, are God's tools for our redemption. Followers of Christ are warned to be alert and ready.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

# St. Luke 21:25-36 Cont.



## Bible Study: St. Luke 21:25-36

Jesus was teaching the disciples about the end of times. He spoke about the coming destruction of Jerusalem. As his followers prepared themselves, they were to understand that what the world views as destruction can become God's tool for redemption.

Therefore, followers were not to allow themselves to be fooled by those who claim to know the end of times, instead they should be in a state of preparation and alertness.

The coming devastation could cause followers to want to lie down in defeat, thinking that destruction and death have the final word in this life. However, Jesus assures that these events point to the coming of hope in the life of followers. At the sign of such events, followers should instead stand up, to receive their coming Christ, and the redemption that he brings.

### Questions:

What are some of the things or events that persons say are signs of the end of time?

Can we see the hope that Jesus brings in the midst of hard or troubling times?

How should followers live as they prepare for his coming?



## Activity: Word Search St. Luke 21:25-36

N	O	I	T	A	R	E	N	E	G	S	A
N	L	P	O	E	P	N	O	O	M	U	S
Z	O	T	N	I	A	F	W	P	N	N	P
A	S	I	G	N	S	D	U	O	L	C	R
N	E	H	T	C	A	A	I	W	O	L	O
S	T	N	I	A	G	T	R	E	O	F	U
Y	R	C	A	L	P	R	I	R	K	O	T
E	A	M	G	M	G	I	F	E	A	R	L
U	P	O	E	P	A	C	S	E	V	E	N
Y	A	D	E	M	M	O	C	S	O	B	E
A	E	G	I	F	Y	M	G	N	I	O	G
R	U	N	O	L	L	I	A	T	A	D	N
P	L	I	I	V	E	N	L	I	K	I	S
O	N	K	E	N	E	G	E	A	E	N	E
T	R	E	A	U	O	Y	R	O	L	G	E
O	S	R	H	E	A	R	T	S	T	A	R
R	A	E	D	N	A	N	E	V	A	E	H
P	L	I	W	E	L	B	A	R	A	P	T



Parable    Foreboding    Generation    Sprout    Hearts    Trap  
 Kingdom    Redemption    Dissipation    Escape    Power    Pray  
 Signs    Coming    Cloud    Fig    Glory    Alert

We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful. Please feel free to share it with others. We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

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