

Children's Liturgy of the Word



1ST SUNDAY ADVENT YEAR B

KEEP AWAKE!

7-12YRS

BACKGROUND



You will notice the Advent Wreath and the priest dressed in purple – yes, it is the beginning of Advent, and we enter the Liturgical Year B. The Gospel readings will generally be from the Gospel of Mark.

The Liturgy continues with the theme of readiness for when the Master returns. Last week, Jesus told us we would find him in the unexpected – while serving the least among us. The obvious theme today is ‘Keep Awake’!

The first-century concept of servanthood is different to our modern understanding. Servants, even though they weren't free to find new employment, were a valued part of the family. Good masters treated all in their household well, and everyone was expected to fulfil their roles faithfully. The good master in this parable expects to be welcomed with enthusiasm and even be loved by all his household.

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. We prepare our homes and our hearts for Christmas with creative forms of prayer; lighting candles, spring cleaning, decorations and acts of charity. St Nicholas, or Santa, reminds us of the spirit of generosity and the warmth of family life. We may be waiting for Jesus' second coming, but he also visits us daily in the small interruptions of life. May we too stay awake to welcome our Lord in our loved ones with enthusiasm and love. May we be awake to also greet Him in the less fortunate that come knocking on our hearts!

PREPARATION

Prepare a prayer focus table with a purple cloth (Advent) to receive the Children's Liturgy Candle and the Children's Lectionary. You may like to include Pope Francis' five-finger prayer card and the poster of the Liturgical Year B on the wall.

If you have a craft activity, ensure that everything is ready – it should only take about 5 minutes maximum to complete. A purple cloth on the floor like a table for them to work around can simplify clean-up afterwards. Coloured pencils and craft materials are in the folders and cupboard.



SETTING THE SCENE

Each Sunday during Advent, the children will light a candle of the parish Advent wreath with the priest before coming to Children's Liturgy. The first candle is Hope.

Help the children remember they are still part of the Mass by asking what color the priest was wearing, and if they remember anything that he said before they came into the room. Introduce them to the Liturgical Calendar, Year B.

You may like to remind them of last Sunday's Gospel. (Jesus the King of Kings, who asks us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, visit the sick and in prison and look after the poor. When we do this, it is Jesus we are serving. Call for examples of practising any of these during the week.)

This week, we continue the theme of being awake for when Jesus returns.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A

Advent: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Make a straight path for the Lord. _____

Bm G D A G A D

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the hope for the world.

You may like to ask one of the older children (a good reader) to read the Gospel. As everyone stands for the Gospel Acclamation, the reader goes to the Lectionary Stand.

Gospel: **Mark 13:33-37 1st Sunday Advent**

(Read from the Children's Lectionary.)

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Sign of the Cross on the forehead (God be in my mind)

sign of the Cross on the lips (God be in my words),

Sign of the Cross on the heart (God be in my heart)

At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION ON THE READING

You may like to retell the Gospel reading. Let the children respond in their own words and then build up a discussion from there. Some of these questions below may be helpful.

- Invite examples of waiting for something or someone, but not know when they are going to arrive? (Or what is the difference between only having an hour to clean your room, vs a longer undefined time?)

- What did the Master expect the servants in today's gospel to be doing when he returned? If they knew what time he was returning, do you think they might want to have a little rest, and do their work later?
- What are we expected to be doing when Jesus returns?

RESPONSE

Jesus is in the interruptions. By entertaining strangers, we may have entertained angels unawares.

- It is good to joyfully prepare for our own celebrations. Discuss happily what they will be doing. As well as present lists for Father Christmas and Christmas decorations, baking, holidays, remind them of prayers, Advent Wreaths, Advent Calendar.
- What is it like to be interrupted from what we want to do? Discuss how they could also remember to stay awake for other's needs as well as our own. It can feel like an interruption from happy things to think about others who aren't so happy and may need our help to enjoy Christmas too. To stop and remember our prayers is good too.
- Maybe show the Advent calendar <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/calendars/childrens-advent-calendar/> for practising small acts of kindness and hope.
- Give each child the Advent Calendar and the Advent wreath cutouts. Invite them to choose one thing they could do, colour it, then put it prayerfully as part of the Advent wreath on the board.

WE BELIEVE

Relating to the Creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father, Creator of all that is good?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who may come when we least expect while we prepare for his Birthday?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, the Lord of Life who fills our hearts with hope?

WE PRAY

We also use the gifts of our hands for prayer. Show them the Pope Francis five-finger prayer. Using their 'hands', lead them in composing prayers.

Respond to each prayer with:

- *Leader: We Pray to the Lord.*
- *All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Here are some suggestions:

- 'Jesus asked us to look after the world and so we now pray...'
- We pray that during Advent we may be a light to help people to be ready for the coming of the Son of God.
- We pray for the whole world, that everyone may be prepared to welcome God in their lives.
- We pray for all those who have died, and their loved ones who miss them.
- We pray for anyone we know who is suffering from any kind of illness. May we help them in any way we can.

- Lord, help us to fill the world with your love in preparation for your coming.
- We make all these prayers through Christ our Lord.
Amen

DISMISSAL

The children join the main assembly during the Offertory. Please count the number of people in the room, and wait for the rest of the November count be done before return the children to their families.

