

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

15TH DECEMBER 2024

Vestment colour: Rose/Pink



INTRODUCTION

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. What does Advent mean? It means “coming”. We are preparing for the birth of the baby Jesus on Christmas Day.

(A suggested activity for Advent is to prepare an Advent wreath to be used at Children’s Liturgy – a smaller version than the one used in the church. If you are not able to do this, then make a picture of an Advent wreath, by cutting out leaf shapes from green card and arranging them in a circle and sticking them to a sheet of card. Next draw and cut out four candles, three purple and one vibrant pink candle and stick these (one each week) onto

the picture of the wreath. Each week of Advent we will describe the wreath and discuss its' meaning. If you have a real wreath we will also light a candle each week. (If you have a picture stick a new picture of a candle on each week!)

As part of your weekly introduction during Advent ask the children to look at the wreath and explain or remind them of what it represents.

Firstly, the wreath is circular to symbolize that God's love for us has no end. It is everlasting.

The leaves of the wreath are **GREEN**, the colour that represents hope. There are four candles (three **PURPLE** – repentance, and one vibrant **PINK** – a symbol of joy for the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday). The bright light of each candle represents Jesus our “light” the “light” of the world. We also have a white candle in the center to light on Christmas Day.

We explain that we will light a candle on the wreath each Sunday in Advent. Today, as we light the third candle, we pray to Jesus asking Him to come into our hearts, that we may know and love Him and following His gentle example, become more like Him, that we may bring His “light” to the people in our lives.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly).

Light three candles, two of the purple candles and the pink one on the Advent wreath (light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

PENITENTIAL ACT

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week, and if they have been kind to each other, helpful to parents, brothers, or sisters, listened to their teachers etc. For the times when we have not behaved as we should we say sorry to God.

Lead the children in singing the “sorry song” (sung to tune of Frere Jacques).

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

GOSPEL

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the Gospel Acclamation: (same tune as above)

He is coming,
He is coming
Bringing peace,
To the world.
Prepare for His coming
God’s reign is near us
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Alternatively say:

Alleluia, Alleluia

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, He has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL (LUKE 3:10-18)

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. The Lectionary Adapted for Children (Year C).

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke”.

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God’s word, speak God’s word and keep God’s word in our hearts) as we say together **“Glory to You, O Lord.”**

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

“The Gospel of the Lord”.

All reply: **“Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ”.**

Ask everyone to be seated.

LEAD A DISCUSSION ON THE GOSPEL

- ❖ Ask the children who John was in the today’s Gospel?
John the Baptist

- ❖ What was John the Baptist’s message today?
It was about Jesus’ love for us all

- ❖ The crowds gathered to wait for Jesus just as we wait for his coming at Christmas during Advent.

- ❖ Discuss with the children why the candle lit this week is Pink and not purple.
One way to discuss the meaning is to get them to think about what other things are purple in the Church and when. Point out that during both Lent and Advent there is a focus on purple and both times are times of preparation which is linked with penance.

- ❖ This week is called Gaudete Sunday.
This stands for joy therefore the candle that is lit is pink to show the change from penance and preparation to joy that Jesus is almost here.

- ❖ The crowds who listened to John the Baptist were also filled with joy and excitement as they waited and prepared for the arrival of their savior.

- ❖ Christmas is a very special time of joy because of the arrival of Jesus. Ask the children about some of the things they can do to show love and joy this Christmas.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Dear Jesus,

Help us we pray, to prepare well for this Advent so that we may always be ready to show our love for You in our daily lives, in our thoughts, prayers and actions.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus,

Help us we pray, to be awake to the needs of others by being thoughtful, kind and helpful.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

ACTIVITY

The activity for the day could be the wreath and the lighting of the candles described at the start of the sheet.

If there is time, use resources to complete an activity with the children. Possible resources are listed at the end.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus

We pray for your children who are poor, sick or lonely, especially at this time of year. We also pray for those who look after them. May they know that in helping or tending to the poor or sick, that they are living the true spirit of Christmas.

Amen.

Select volunteers for the Offertory Procession. Those not involved in the procession should quietly return to sit with their family or guardian.

Useful resources

CAFOD at <https://cafod.org.uk/Children-s-Liturgy>

Children's Liturgy with Emily: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwnLJNMXemY>

Archdiocese of Dunkeld: <https://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/resources-for-children-liturgy/>

Search for page entitled 'Resources for Children's Liturgy'

The Liturgy of the Word with Children by Katie Thompson, publisher Kevin Mayhew