

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year B.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – First Sunday of Advent

Psalm 80

Response: “Come and stay with us, O Lord. Holy is your name.”

Today is the beginning of a new liturgical year. It is also the beginning of the season of Advent. The season we begin to wait for the birth of our Lord.

- **When will he come?**
- **“Always be ready!”**
- **“Pay attention!”**

Summary of the Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7 (This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.)

Below is the reading:

You, O God, are our Creator.

You have always been our redeemer, our Savior.

Why do you let us wander from your ways, and allow our hearts to turn away from you?

Oh, how we wish you would open the heavens and come down to us.

You have already done mighty things for us- things beyond our hopes and dreams.

No one has ever heard or seen any God but you doing such things.

You do wonderful things for those who trust in you.

You want to find us doing what is right, following your ways.

But you are angry with us,

because we are sinful.

We have all done what is wrong.

We are weak, and we live in sinful ways.

We don’t pay any attention to you or pray to you.

And yet, you are our Creator.

We are the clay and you are the potter.

We have all been made by your hands.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:33-37 (This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.)

Below is the reading:

Jesus said to his disciples,

“Always be ready!

Stay awake.

You do not know when the special time will come.

Think about someone going on a long trip.

Before leaving, the owner of the house puts the servants in charge of everything and gives each one a special task.

One servant is told to guard the door very carefully.

“Pay Attention!

You do not know when the owner of the house is coming back.

It may be in the evening, at midnight or early in the morning.

Do not let the owner come home suddenly and find you asleep.

What I am saying to you, I say to everyone:

Pay attention! Be ready!”

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Ask the children what they heard today in the Gospel reading? Remind them that we usually prepare for events because we know when they are expected to happen. We prepare for Christmas because we know it will be December 25th. Today Jesus is telling us that we should “always be ready”, we do not know when he will return. We must always be prepared for this great event. We must be ready to meet him when he comes.

Reflection Activity:

Ask the children to share ways they can prepare for the glorious day when Jesus returns.

“Stay awake, be ready.

You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming.

Stay awake, be ready. The Lord is coming soon!”

