

## **Reflection: Heads Up by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.**

Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfillment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a "just shoot," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see [2 Samuel 7:16](#); [Jeremiah 33:17](#); [Psalm 89:4-5](#); [27-38](#)).

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: "Guide me in Your truth and teach me. For You Are God my Savior and for You I will wait all day." We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His Only Son into the world. Jesus is the "just shoot," the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting. Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens (see [Isaiah 13:11, 13](#); [Ezekiel 32:7-8](#); [Joel 2:10](#)); roaring seas (see [Isaiah 5:30](#); [17:12](#)); distress among the nations (see [Isaiah 8:22, 14:25](#)) and terrified people (see [Isaiah 13:6-11](#)). He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a "theophany," a manifestation of God (see [Daniel 7:13-14](#)). Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is at hand," that "the kingdom of God is near" (see [Luke 21:31](#)).

### **Daily Readings**

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-4, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118; Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 271, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6, 11, 12; Lk 1:26-38

### **Schedules for Masses:**

Sunday: 7.30 am Kiswahili  
9.00 am; 10.30 am; 12.00 noon & 5.30 pm English  
Saturday: English 7.00 a m; 9.00 am & 5.30 pm  
Monday to Friday: English 7.00 am & 1.15 am, 5.30 pm Kiswahili

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## CONSOLATA SHRINE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018



### **FIRST READING**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*"I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth for David."*

### **A reading from the Book of Jeremiah**

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil 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 forth for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 25:4-5, 8-9 .10. 14 (R 1)**

**R: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

O Lord, make me know your ways.

Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;  
for you are the God of my salvation. (R)

Good and upright is the Lord;

he shows the way to sinners.

He guides the humble in right judgment;  
to the humble he teaches his way. (R)

All the Lord's paths are mercy and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and commands.  
The Lord's secret is for those who fear him;  
to them he reveals his covenant. (R)



### **SECOND READING**

**1 Thessalonians. 3:12 - 4:2**

*"May the Lord establish your hearts at the coming of our Lord Jesus."*

### **A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.**

Brethren: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do to you, so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. Finally, brethren, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you learned from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.



## Alleluia, Alleluia

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.*

## Alleluia



### GOSPEL

*“Your redemption is near at hand.”*

**Luke 21:25-28.34-36.**

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And 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, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare; for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. But watch at all times, praying to have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

#### Announcements

1. Today is the first Sunday of the Month. There will be a blessing of our Tithe, our families and our work at the end of all Masses. Thanking you for your generous contribution.
2. Today the Rosary will be prayed in front of the Eucharist after the twelve o'clock Mass.
3. Friday 7<sup>th</sup>, is the first Friday of the Month. Vigil will start at 9.00pm and end with a holy Mass at 5.00am.
4. Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be candle lit procession after evening Mass.
5. The Children's annual Christmas party will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup>, December at 10am to 4.30pm. All children are welcome.
6. Blessed Irene Small Christian (SCC) will be visiting Mother Teresa Children Home on December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10am. Donation of diapers, detergent etc are welcome.
7. There are various Secondary Schools inviting boys and girls who completed class 8 in 2018 for **Form One** intake in 2019. For more information, check the notice board.
8. The Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood are at the gazebo selling Calendars for 2019. All are welcome.
9. Consolata Self-help group (Corporate) is recruiting new members, kindly visit the desk at the gazebo.
10. The Bible Dairies 2019 which include daily reflection are available at the desk outside the Church and in the bookshop. Get a copy for yourself and make it a Christmas gift to your loved ones.

### ADVENT WREATH



The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in

Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world. The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose, but four white candles or four violet candles can also be used. In the center of the wreath sits a white candle. (Note that some Advent wreath have only the first four candles -3 violet and one pink). Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal— one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25<sup>th</sup>. A short prayer may accompany the lighting. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. On the FIRST SUNDAY of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

#### Blessing for the Advent Wreath

O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, we look on these earthly signs -light and green branches- and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come. Pour forth thy blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the Coming of Christ, and may receive from thee abundant graces. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

#### *Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil. (*Is. 9:1-2*)

#### *Then all pray:*

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

*(Then the first candle is lighted.)*

#### Daily Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath, during this first week

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation,  
Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.