

November 29, 2009

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33: 14 -16

Thessalonians 3: 12 – 4: 2

Luke 21: 25 – 28, 34 – 36

As the church begins a new liturgical year with the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – one theme from the readings is about doing the right thing. Today's Old Testament reading from Jeremiah 33: 14 -16 is about the fulfillment of the promise that God made to Judah & Israel (v 14), concerning the restoration of the dignity of the Jews (who are still in captivity). In due time, this will be fulfilled when Christ shall spring from the House of David, "and he shall do what is just and right" (v. 15): both David & Christ.

The epistle from Thessalonians 3: 12 – 4:2 contains an Apostolic Prayer from Paul (vs. 12 -13) \*\* which is part of our common prayer. Paul prays for an increase in our love for each other and a loving regard for one and all. That is – we are responsible to do the right thing by helping to improve God's kingdom on earth. We can do this by doing the right thing by loving our neighbor as ourselves, which sums up the prophet and the law. This was one of the final phrases used by Jesus to explain the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 7: 12). This could be a meaningful Advent Prayer. What are you waiting for?

208

\*\* "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his holy ones. Amen"