

Week of the First Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 02, 2025 (Tuesday) [Year 2]	
Theme:	Hope	
Collect:	Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	
Psalm	Morning: 5, 6	Evening: 10, 11
1st Lesson:	Amos 3: 1-11	
2nd Lesson:	2 Peter 1: 12-21	
3rd Lesson:	Matthew 21:12-22	

Reflection:

Morning Psalm 5 is an appeal to God for help because of his righteousness and the wickedness of the oppressor who is against the one who is praying. Psalm 6 is an appeal for deliverance from the enemies of the one who is praying. The Evening Psalm 10 is a request to God for action to dispel the enemy's thought that His silence is a sign that He won't do anything. Psalm 11 is a declaration that the one praying has taken refuge in the Lord, because his foundations are being destroyed, and there's nothing more that righteous do. There are times that I feel like everything is falling apart around me. In such time, the only firm ground I can find, is trusting in God, that is placing my hope that the Lord will protect me.

In Chapter 3 of Amos, God continues his judgement against Israel, but the offenses seem quite personal (ex. "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.") and full of imagery of the pending calamity, almost like saying, be afraid! "The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

In today's passage in the second letter of Peter, we hear him almost repeating over and over again to be reminded of his message, because he predicts that his own death is near. Like saying, "Pretty soon I won't be able to remind you anymore.." Listen to these prophetic messages as a lamp shining in the dark. Prophecies came by "men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

In the Gospel reading, the first thing Jesus does when he entered the temple was to cause chaos by overturning tables of the money changers and seats of merchants selling doves. Doves were sold in the temple so people can purchase them to be sacrificed to God for their sins and purification rites, at the temple in Jerusalem. They must have been selling them for exorbitant prices and that must have angered Jesus! Money Changers, too! They must have

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been using corrupt rates. What injustice to those coming from another country to worship God, with the prices they had to pay to do what they came all the way to Jerusalem to do!

It makes me wonder what all of today's reading have to do with Advent. Perhaps, the greed and injustice done to the poor and the foreigners are the darkness of the world in which we need pray to have the Armor of Light put on, as we pray in the Collect of the week. It's only when we have the light that we realize what was lurking in the darkness. The more light we have the more we see what needs to be cleansed. Let us wear this armor of light, so we can clean up our mortal life, in order to prepare for the coming of the Great Shepherd and the perfect Lamb of God, our Lord Jesus... into our hearts and into each other's hearts!

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