

Week of the First Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 03, 2025 (Wednesday) [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: 119: 1-24	Evening: 12, 13, 14
1st Lesson:	Amos 3:12 – 4:5	
2nd Lesson:	2 Peter 3:1-10	
3rd Lesson:	Matthew 21:23-32	

Reflection:

Morning Psalm 119 is 176 verses long! But only 24 verses are recited during the Morning Prayer. It's alphabetical poem (in Hebrew!) where each set of 8 verses begins with a letter in the Hebrew alphabet! If only I spoke Hebrew I would be able to experience the joy and challenge of memorizing them! For the purpose of Daily Lectionary, whoever planned it was clever in placing three 8-verse sets (total of 24 verses) into the Wednesday lectionary (always Wednesdays, but not every Wednesday). The entire Psalm is on the joy of keeping the laws and the commandments of the Lord.

Evening Psalm 12 is a cry for help when one is surrounded by the ungodly and it feels like you're the only one left who is faithful to the Lord. I feel that this Psalm is as relevant in today's world as it must have been when it was first sung. Psalm 13 is a plea to God coming from the sense of abandonment, yet the one praying is optimistic and positive and praises God. Psalm 14 describes the fool who says "There is no God." In his heart. It seems to be the unspoken knowledge of the faithful in exile, in a godless land.

Oh, God is so mad at the Israelites in these verses in the first reading. I wonder how it might have felt for Amos, a mere shepherd called by God to be a part time Prophet! But not to give comforting prophecies but doom and gloom of the most devastating kind! Verse 12 "As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear..." The rescue is too late!! According to Deuteronomists, Israel by maintaining their temple in Bethel, they are always in the wrong because to them, there should only be one place of worship – in Jerusalem.

Peter, writing his second letter towards the end of his life, perhaps 30 years into his career as an apostle of Jesus, and the same with all believers of Jesus as the Messiah at the time, must have all been waiting for Jesus to return any day. After all, he said he will return... so why is the world still in existence, and why hasn't the end of the world already come and the

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believers taken to the Kingdom of God? And Peter sensing his pending death, explains that with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like one day. The reason for slowness is “because He is patient, not wanting any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.” And that the day will come like a thief. Didn’t Jesus also say, “if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not have let his house be broken into.” In other words, live each day as though Jesus will return today, and always stay alert.

Jesus’ authority is questioned, and Jesus questioned the questioner’s blindness in return. Even after seeing and hearing John the Baptist’s call for repentance, they wouldn’t heed his words and kept on ignoring what was obvious to common persons. It’s so dangerous to one who believes he/she is already “saved” and is “pious”, especially if this behavior has been calcified over a long period of time. I was once set on the right path, but to think that I need to follow this path in the exact angle might endanger me. When there is an obvious fork in the road ahead, or a right turn, do you think God is telling me to forge ahead – ignore the fork, ignore the curve and start paving a straight path? Perhaps not. Our minds should always be flexible enough to think and make adjustments along the way. Hopefully we will be able to encounter John the Baptist and hear his cry for repentance, and we will be ready to hear, believe and to follow the instructions.

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