

Week of the First Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 04, 2025 (Thursday) [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: 18: 1-20	Evening: 18: 21-50
1st Lesson:	Amos 4:6-13	
2nd Lesson:	2 Peter 3:11-18	
3rd Lesson:	Matthew 21:33-46	

Reflection:

The Psalm 18 is split between Morning and Evening Prayers. It is a testimony of sort to how the Lord assisted when David must have been in an otherwise futile battle. But because of the Lord's help to the Righteous, he is victorious and he is able to rule above the foreign nation. The opening sounds very similar to Jonah's prayer from the belly of the fish. Every time I read the first half, I am reminded of this.

In today's 1st reading, we hear all the reasons why God is "done" with Israel, and that they will now face the consequence of their angering Yahweh, their God. The five punishments God cites, "yet you did not return to me," is hard to hear. God is desperate to get Israel's attention, yet the people keep ignoring him. Ouch. No wonder he is ready for the ultimatum!

In the second reading we wrap up Peter's second letter. One of the main verses I see is verse 14 – "...while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation."

In 1997 the entire world began worrying about what will happen to electronic systems that relied on 2-digit year clocks? Then began the whole Y2K program to replace systems or apply patches to existing codes that will enable programs to go forward from 99 to 100 instead of to 00. We did everything we needed to do to prepare for this. With the countdown on December 31, 1999, the whole world braced for the worst. When nothing happened, people complained, "all that work for nothing." And by January 2nd, people forgot that there ever was a Y2K Project. Well, from my perspective the Y2K program was a 100% success. We achieved what we went out to do. We achieved peace of mind as the outcome. Sometimes peace does not feel glorious, but we should be grateful nothing catastrophic happened on January 1st, 2000. Perhaps this is the kind of peace Peter is speaking about, that only comes from preparation. It may not be action-filled, but certainly peaceful, without spot or blemish.

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Jesus continues with another Parable in Matthew's Gospel story. This one foretells what is about to happen where the son of the vineyard owner is killed because of the tenants' greed, and the vineyard owner, in his fury (not unlike Amos' oracle!) punishes the tenant and then leases to others who will give him the produce at the harvest time. Matthew was a Gospel writer whose audience is the Jewish community. I interpret the "lease the vineyard to other tenants..." to mean Gentiles. This opens up God's redeeming grace to the Gentiles as well! The key here, I think, is whether the tenant is a Jew or a non-Jew, God expects produce at the harvest time. Can we deliver this, or will we also act like the bad tenant? What am I called to harvest? What are you called to harvest?

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