

Week of the First Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 06, 2025 (Saturday) [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: 20, 21:1-7(8-14)	Evening: 110, 116, 117
1st Lesson:	Amos 5:18-27	
2nd Lesson:	Jude 17-25	
3rd Lesson:	Matthew 22:15-22	

Reflection:

Morning Prayer Psalm 20 sounds like it is the Priest's blessing on the Military personnel wishing them victory. Psalm 21, like prayers of king's subjects thanking the Lord for granting him victory and prosperity.

Evening Prayer Psalm 110 seems to be from the perspective of subject of two royalties – one being human and the other, probably Lord God. But which is saying to which? Perhaps this is what Jesus was questioning in all three Synoptic Gospels (Mathew 22:44, Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42). If this Psalm was written by David, and Christ is the Son of David, then how could he call the Christ Lord, who seems to be equal in this Psalm with God... Hmmm. So much to look into!

Psalm 116 is a beautiful Psalm of gratitude to God for what he has done. Memorable verses: 11 – “I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.”; 14 – “O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.” The last Psalm of the Evening Prayer today is 117, a song of Praise. It's probably the shortest Psalm – just two verses!

Amos wraps up this week by proclaiming God's rejection of the sacrifices the Israelites were making in formalities only. Instead, God's request is, “let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” That is the sacrifice that God wants from us – Justice and Righteousness!

Jude concludes his letter with advices – “build yourselves up on most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God;” and “look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” In other words, keep yourselves prepared for the end time. Very appropriate as Advent message.

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I love Jesus in his witty comebacks to Pharisees' entrapments! Give back the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and give God the things that are God's! What can we offer to God? What are "things that are God's?" Going back to Amos, wouldn't it be Justice and Righteousness? Let's keep our eyes open to injustices and voice out. Let us not be bystanders but active participants in bringing about justice. Easier said than done, but one step at a time – we can get there!

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