

Week of the Second Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 07, 2025 (Sunday) [Year 2]	
Theme:	Peace	
Collect:	Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	
Psalm:	Morning: 148, 149, 150	Evening: 114, 115
1st Lesson:	Amos 6:1-14	
2nd Lesson:	2 Thessalonians 1:5-12	
3rd Lesson:	Luke 1:57-68	

Reflection:

Psalm 148, 149 and 150 are the last three Psalms. This wrap-up overlap happens on the Sunday after the new cycle begins. They are all joyful and resounding with Hallelujahs.

Morning Psalm 148

Psalm 148 praises God for the entire creation, both the cosmic and the earthly events, and together with all creation let us all praise the Lord!

Morning Psalm 149

The focus of Psalm 149 is a call to praise to the people of Israel for the victory over the enemies.

Morning Psalm 150

Psalm 150 is a call for everything that has breath to praise the Lord, with instruments – horn, lyre, harp, timbrel, strings, pipes and cymbals. Oh, and Dance!

Evening Psalm 114

Psalm 114 is in praise of God's calling the natural world to obey the Lord for his miraculous deliverance of Israel from the land of Egypt.

Evening Psalm 115

The first half of Psalm 115 compares gods (idols) made of silver and gold – of human hands – which cannot do a thing, with the Lord who remain invisible, yet power abounding, to help Israel in their time of need, and may He be blessed for ever.

Amos 6:1-14

In Amos, God continues his rant against Israel for the arrogance and injustice in its conduct. Lord God promises the utter destruction of Israel from border to border (“..from Lebo-hamath to the Wadi Arabah”).

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2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

In Paul's second letter to the people of Thessalonica, he lets the believers know that he is praying that God will make them worthy of His call and that the name of Lord Jesus may be glorified in them, and they in him. As for the punishment of the oppressors, I believe just as light makes darkness disappear, so God's presence will be a sufficient negation of evil. They don't necessarily need to be punished per se.

Luke 1:57-68

I looked up the meaning of the name John. In Hebrew, it's "Yohanan" and it means "God is gracious". I wonder if that was a popular name in the time of Jesus. We have John the Baptist (whose birth we read today), John, son of Zebedee, the disciple of Jesus, who many scholars believe is also the Evangelist and author of the Gospel of John, and finally John of Patmos in Revelation. That is a lot of Johns!

Today's story is of the old man Zechariah, John's dad who doubted the angel Gabriel's good news that he and his wife Elizabeth (who is getting on in years) will bear a child at their old age. Sounds familiar? Abraham and Sarah experienced a similar improbable announcement at their ripe age of 99 plus for Abraham, and 90 plus for Sarah (Genesis 17). Zechariah was told he will not be able to speak until Angel Gabriel's predictions had come true. Upon Zechariah's naming the newborn child "John", he began to speak again.

As far as Advent theme is concerned, yes, John is the messenger, the Prophet who was sent to preach repentance to the world. May we heed John's call to repentance daily, and make straight the pathway for our King as we await the coming of Christ into our hearts.

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