

## Week of the Second Sunday of Advent 2025

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| <b>Date:</b>                  | December 11, 2025 (Thursday) [Year 2]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                    |
| <b>Theme:</b>                 | Peace                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                    |
| <b>Collect:</b>               | 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. <b>Amen.</b> |                                    |
| <b>Psalm:</b>                 | Morning: <a href="#">37:1-18</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Evening: <a href="#">37: 19-42</a> |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson:</b> | <a href="#">Amos 9:1-10</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                    |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson:</b> | <a href="#">Revelation 2:8-17</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                    |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson:</b> | <a href="#">Matthew 23:13-26</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |

### Reflection:

#### Morning Psalm 37: 1-18; Evening Psalm 37: 19-42

Psalm 37 is a bit like the Proverbs – many bits of wise saying, how the wicked will fall, but the righteous will be blessed.

#### Amos 9: 1-10

Chapter 9 in Amos shows continued prediction of thorough punishment, but in verse 8 we see a glimmer of hope for the twelve sons of Jacob – “I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, says the Lord.”

#### Revelation 2: 8-17

The second letter in Revelation is to the church in Smyrna. The prediction is that some will be thrown into prison and for 10 days they will have affliction. Command is to be faithful, and the promise is they will have crown of life and will not be harmed by the second death.

The third letter is to the church in Pergamum. They are in the middle of where Satan’s throne is, but they are holding fast. However, some are following wrong teachings. Command is to repent. The promise is for “hidden manna” and a white stone with a new name no one knows except the one who receives it.

#### Matthew 23: 13-26

This section in Matthew is where Jesus admonishes the scribes and the Pharisees for their hypocritical ways. Jesus points out all the justices they tend to ignore while pursuing the act of piety.

Jesus makes examples of the religious leadership of the time, but I as a seminarian need to keep this in mind – to not let justice slip by for the sake of formalities of the Episcopalians. God, help me to keep my focus on doing justice at all times, through this Advent and beyond!