

Week of the Second Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 12, 2025 (Friday) [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: 31	Evening: 35
1st Lesson:	Haggai 1:1-15	
2nd Lesson:	Revelation 2:18-29	
3rd Lesson:	Matthew 23:27-39	

Reflection:

Morning Psalm 31

Psalm 31 starts with description of comfort in taking refuge in the Lord, but things turn darker in verse 9 where he confesses his affliction – it seems emotionally – and believes the neighbors are all against him. Yet he digs in deeper with his trust in the Lord’s goodness, so much so that he even commends to others Lord’s protection.

Evening Psalm 35

Psalm 35 is even more sinister, where the reciter is asking God to fight his enemies for him. Perhaps only the Lord can deliver him out of the predicament, and he knows how powerful the Lord is. Don’t let his enemies get the last laugh. Verse 24 says it all: “Give me justice, O Lord my God, according to your righteousness; do not let them triumph over me.”

Haggai 1: 1-15

We leave behind the ending of the Book of Amos and move on to Prophet Haggai. We jump from around 750 BCE to 520 BCE after the destruction of Jerusalem, after the returning of the Judaeans from 60 years in exile.

Many who were successful in the foreign land during exile probably didn’t care to return. It was those who had nothing to lose, or who were super religious, that ended up returning to the destroyed land of Judah. They had their own livelihood to worry about, and rebuilding the temple was not even on agenda of most of the returnees. How to get them motivated to rebuild the temple. That is where Haggai comes in and prophesies that the reason everyone’s lives still seemed to be in ruin is because they are ignoring the Lord’s house, the temple. So they begin to rebuild it.

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Revelation 2: 18-29

The fourth church is Thyatira which continues to tolerate “that woman Jezebel” who calls herself a prophet. Prediction is that anyone who commits adultery with Jezebel will be thrown into great distress, and her children will all die. Command is to hold fast “to what you have until I (Jesus) come.” The promise is for the authority over the nations as well as the morning star. What a promise!

Matthew 23: 27-39

Jesus continues his “Woe to you,” speech against the scribes and the Pharisees, pointing out all the hypocrisy of their conducts. However, verse 37 shows how he is not angry with hostility, but rather with anguish and despair against a loved one who did not understand how much love was poured out on them. Jesus is angry because he loves them.

This Advent may we acknowledge our misunderstanding of God’s love for us, begin to recognize our faults and earnestly seek how we can change (repent). Let us reach out to the Lord for help on correcting it.

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