

Week of the Second Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 13, 2025 (Saturday) [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: 30, 32	Evening: 42, 43
1st Lesson:	Haggai 2:1-9	
2nd Lesson:	Revelation 3:1-16	
3rd Lesson:	Matthew 24:1-14	

Reflection:

Morning Psalm 30

Psalm 30 is a song of thanksgiving to the Lord for the restoration to health. Verse 3 tells it all: “You brought me up, O Lord from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.” Memorable verse: 6 – “Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning.” So poetic!

Morning Psalm 32

Psalm 32 is a song of happiness for the Lord’s willingness to forgive after some time of feeling guilty. Verse 6 says, “I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.’ Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.”

Evening Psalm 42

A sense of loneliness and abandonment by God is felt in this Psalm. Yet, the verse 7: “Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God” is repeated at the end, in verse 15, perhaps as a prayer in his heart to keep trusting in God. There are definitely times I feel this way and can relate to the reciter.

Evening Psalm 43

Psalm 43 must be a continuation of Psalm 42 – with verse 6 as the refrain: “Put your trust in God;...” Famous verse in this psalm is verse 3: “Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;”

Haggai 2: 1-9

The Lord through Haggai the Prophet promises funding for the rebuilding of the temple, and the splendor will be even greater than the former. Sometimes when we don’t know what former glory looked like, all we have is the willingness to look forward to building something greater than what we can imagine. If this isn’t Hope, I don’t know what is!

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Revelation 3: 1-16

The fifth letter is to the church in Sardis. Apparently, this church is known for being alive, but Jesus, through John, says they are actually dead. Command is to remember what was received and heard, obey and repent. Promise is, if they conquer, they will be clothed in white robes like the few in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes.

Matthew 24: 1-14

So much doom and gloom in Jesus' prediction of the end times, the Apocalypse. I have always dismissed "nation will rise against nation" as something that happens in every generation. Famines, too. So are earthquakes in various places.

What is a bit disconcerting are the following:

- "...many false prophets will arise and lead many astray."
- "...increase of lawlessness.."
- "...love of many will grow cold."

Seems like we have a gigantic thing called Internet which is so capable of the above predictions. It is scary. We must endure to the end and be saved. What that means will be to be willing to listen to the Holy Spirit, the Counselor at all times, be sensitive to what is right and wrong, and be discerning.

This Advent, let us always stay aware of the Holy Spirit within us, to guide us into all truth, and continue to prepare our hearts to receive the Prince of Peace at any moment.

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