

Week of the Third Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 17, 2025 (Wednesday) [Year 2]	
Theme:	Joy	
Collect:	Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.	
Psalm:	Morning: 119:49-72	Evening: 49, [53]
1st Lesson:	Zechariah 3:1-10	
2nd Lesson:	Revelation 4:1-8	
3rd Lesson:	Matthew 24:45-51	

Reflection:

Morning Psalm 119: 49-72

More phrases in praise of Law and Commandments. This is the third installment (3 sets of 8 verses). Some meaningful verses: 55 – “I remember your Name in the night, O Lord, and dwell upon your law.”; 64 – “The earth, O Lord, is full of your love; instruct me in your statutes.”; 65 – “O Lord, you have dealt graciously with your servant, according to your word.”

Evening Psalm 49

This psalm is a bit leaning to wisdom literature in understanding that all will die eventually no matter how smart or dumb. There isn't a ransom we can pay enough to live forever. Verse 15 is different – It seems to predict Christ: “But God will ransom my life; he will snatch me from the grasp of death.”

Evening Psalm 53

Another Wisdom Literature laden psalm where God declares there is no one on earth who is wise. Not one that does good. The psalm ends with God's deliverance and restoration of Israel.

Zechariah 3: 1-10

Joshua makes an appearance in Zechariah's visions. Joshua coexisted with Zechariah and Zerubbabel in the reconstruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. But Joshua is the Hebrew name for “Jesus”. Hmm. I wonder if Angel Gabriel was referring to the Book of Zechariah and his prophecies when he told Mary to name her son Jesus...

Revelation 4: 1-8

The apocalyptic vision starts here, in chapter 4 when the awesome vision begins. It is very similar to Daniel's visions in Chapter 8 as well as Ezekiel's in Chapter 1. We see the origin of Sanctus (“Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord God the Almighty,”).

Matthew 24: 45-51

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Jesus gives a short parable of faithful and wise slave and wicked slave. When the master returns and sees the wise slave working, he will put that slave in charge of all his possessions. The wicked slave took advantage of master's delay and drank and was caught red-handed.

We are reminded time and again that the day will come, just no telling when. Yet Jesus did promise the Holy Spirit to be with us when he leaves, and that he will guide us into all truths. So Jesus' spirit is with us even now! The joy we have in this is in every day events. It's not joy like a surprise birthday party happening every day. It may sound like an every day humdrum, but no, if you keep your mind set on God's gift to us as every day grace, you'll have a different, long-term outlook to keep sharing with others the same grace we received.

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