

Week of the Third Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 20, 2025 (Saturday) [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: 55	Evening: 138, 139: 1-17(18-23)
1st Lesson:	Zechariah 8:9-17	
2nd Lesson:	Revelation 6:1-17	
3rd Lesson:	Matthew 25:31-46	

Reflection:

Morning Psalm 55

Psalm 55 is to me a prayer for God's help when a friend turns into a foe who wants to bring you down. It has a sense of anxiety, wanting to escape and forget the situation, as well as lament from betrayal. Ultimately there is trust in the Lord that he will be just. Memorable verse: 24 – "Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous stumble."

Evening Psalm 138

Psalm 138 is a song of praise and laud for the Lord who keep the reciter safe. Memorable verse: 9 – "The Lord will make good his purpose for me; O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands."

Evening Psalm 139

Psalm 139 is one of the most profound psalm about the nature of the Lord, who knows everything about me, the reciter. No matter where I am He is there, from before I was born to now. Verse 18 and on seems a bit out of place, but does not negate the high regard for the Lord. **Memorable verses:** 7 – "If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also."; 13 – "I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well."; 16, 17 – "How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them! / If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours."

Zechariah 8: 9-17

Through Zechariah, the Lord encourages the people who are rebuilding the temple and promises his blessings will be on the remnant of house of Judah and Israel. He will do good to Jerusalem and the house of Judah.

Week of the Third Sunday of Advent 2025

Revelation 6: 1-17

In today's passage in Revelation, the six of the seven seals were opened. Hard to keep track of what John saw, so I'll try to chart this one. It really sounds like the end of the world! We'll see what happens next.

Seal	Heard	Saw	What happened
1	One of the four living creatures calling "Come!"	A white horse. Rider has a bow	A crown was given to him and he came out conquering and to conquer.
2	Second living creature calling "Come!"	Bright Red Horse. A rider.	Rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another; and he was given a great sword.
3	Third living creature calling "Come!"	Black horse. Rider has a pair of scales in his hand.	Voice in the midst of the four living creature saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's pay, and three quarts of barley for a day's pay, but do not damage the olive oil and the wine!"
4	Voice of the fourth living creature call out, "Come!"	A pale green horse. Rider's name was Death.	Hades followed with him; they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, famine, and pestilence, and by the wild animals of the earth.
5	They cried out with a loud voice, "Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?"	Under the altar, the souls of those who had been slaughtered for the word of God and for the testimony they had given.	They were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number would be complete both of their fellow-servants and of their brothers and sisters, who were soon to be killed as they themselves had been killed.
6	"Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"	I looked,	There came a great earthquake; the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree drops its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll rolling itself up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the magnates and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, (see Heard).

Week of the Third Sunday of Advent 2025

Matthew 25: 31-46

Probably my favorite parable: of the separation of Goats and Sheep, although I like both kinds of Cheeses, and I'm not sure it's fair to the goats to be condemned! I know it's just an illustration only in the parable.

This parable explains for us where the Son of Man (or Jesus) is today, even before the judgment day! He is there in the needy and the destitute and those who are the recipient of injustice. This has always been what the Prophets have been saying – do justice for the oppressed! That is where Jesus can be found, and that is where Jesus wants you to help him, in caring for them.

There's no time like now to begin looking out for persons in these situations and being with them. There's no time like this Advent Season to begin preparing our hearts to be kinder, gentler and caring for others. Let us begin!

Shoji Mizumoto, Seminary Intern; December, 2025