

Week of the Fourth Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 21, 2025 (Sunday) [Year 2]	
Theme:	Love	
Collect:	Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	
Psalm:	Morning: 24, 29	Evening: 08, 84
1st Lesson:	Genesis 3:8-15	
2nd Lesson:	Revelation 12:1-10	
3rd Lesson:	John 3:16-21	

Reflection:

Morning Psalm 24

A psalm of laud of the Lord with praise of his creation. Question: (verse 3) – Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? And who can stand in his holy place? / Answer: (verse 4) – Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.

Morning Psalm 29

A psalm in praise of the Lord of waters, fires, trees, animals and wilderness. Verse 2: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Evening Psalm 08

A psalm in praise of the Lord of all nature. Verse 5: What is man that you should be mindful of him? The son of man that you should seek him out? Verse 6: You have made him but little lower than the angels; you adorn him with glory and honor..

Evening Psalm 84

Oh so beautiful a psalm to praise the Lord of spring and regeneration! The birds finding nest to lay their young and the desolate valley finding itself a spring of water. Verse 3 – Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.

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Genesis 3: 8-15

Here we read the story of the fall of mankind to sin – the moment Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they knew they did evil by disobeying the Lord who told them not even to touch its fruit. They heard the Lord in the garden and tried to hide from Him. They were caught. And the serpent is punished for tempting mankind to disobey.

Revelation 12: 1-10

A woman clothed with Sun and moon under her feet and crown of 12 stars on her head versus red dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns with 7 diadems on its head. 3 years, 5 months and 2 weeks. That's how long 1260 days is. Might as well let you know since I calculated it! I wonder what the significance of that number is... In any case, here we find the dragon being equated with the serpent – who, we saw earlier – was the one who deceived Adam and Eve, being defeated. The dragon is defeated by Michael and his angels. What a fantastic imagery!

John 3: 16-21

John 3: 16 is one of the most famous verses in the New Testament. But verse 17 is most meaningful to the readings that were lined up for us today – instead of punishing humanity for the sins that Adam and Eve committed, the Son was sent to redeem the world. The babe in Revelation sounds like Jesus, then the woman must be Mary, and the dragon is the old serpent from the Garden of Eden, being defeated. It is possible to interpret today's reading in such a way!

We see God's love of humanity in Jesus in today's readings as the theme for the fourth week in Advent happens to be "Love". They demonstrate how God shows us both his intolerance of sin and imperfectness, and yet because he loves humanity so much, he finds a way to cut through the issue by sending his Son to the earth. May we come to understand this love so that we can shout along with the psalmist in the last verse of Psalm 08: "O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your Name in all the world!"