

Week of the Fourth Sunday of Advent 2025

Date:	December 23, 2025 (Tuesday) [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: 66, 67	Evening: 116, 117
1st Lesson:	1 Samuel 2:1b-10	
2nd Lesson:	Titus 2:1-10	
3rd Lesson:	Luke 1:26-38	

Reflection:

Morning Psalm 66

Psalm 66 is in praise of God for what he has done in delivering the reciter out of difficulties and through trials in life “just as silver is tried.” The reciter comes through stronger than before, triumphing over the enemies. Last verse (18) – “Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his love from me.”

Morning Psalm 67

The reciter of this short 7-versed Psalm of praise understands mono-theism, that God is not just God of the Israelites, but God of all the peoples and all the earth. He repeats the refrain twice – “Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.” In verses 3 and 5.

Evening Psalm 116

We have already encountered this evening psalms on the first week of Advent, on day 7 (Saturday, December 06, 2025). This is what I said:

“Psalm 116 is a beautiful Psalm of gratitude to God for what he has done. Memorable verses: 11 – “I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.”; 14 – “O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.” The last Psalm of the Evening Prayer today is 117, a song of Praise. It’s probably the shortest Psalm – just two verses!”

Evening Psalm 117

Ditto!

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1 Samuel 2: 1b-10

Hannah, who was barren miraculously bore a son after her promise to God that the child will be given to Him (as a Nazirite). The child's name is Samuel, and he was the greatest judge of all time in Israel. He was the last of the judges before he anointed both Saul and David kings of Israel – the first two kings. This famous “Song Of Hannah” is now Canticle C in the [Enriching Our Worship](#) supplement to the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

Titus 2: 1-10

Paul's instruction to Titus is to “teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. I wish to add “.. in any era,” at the end of that sentence lest anyone think that Paul's view at that moment almost 2000 years ago is still valid. What I mean to say is sentence like “Tell slaves to be submissive to their masters..” is no longer a sound doctrine in today's context. Same would be true about the sentence “[older women] being submissive to their husbands..” A couple should have utmost respect for each other. I think that is what Paul meant, but in the context of the society two thousand years ago, in the Middle East.

Luke 1: 26-38

In this passage today, the angel Gabriel announces to Mary, that she will bear a son whom she will name Jesus. At this moment Mary is told He will

- be Great
- be called the Son of the Most High
- be given the throne of David
- reign over the house of Jacob for ever

and of his kingdom there will be no end. What a powerful announcement! Here she is told her relative Elizabeth is six months pregnant. Lucky for us Mary didn't make a fuss like Zechariah - she's able to talk even after Gabriel's visit!

May we, like Mary, accept the call to serve God in any capacity we are asked. May we like Titus, be sensitive to sound doctrine and follow the Holy Spirit no matter any human oppositions. May our lives be enriched like the Psalmist that are strengthened by every service rendered to God. And in that way may we continue to keep the spirit of Advent alive in our hearts until Jesus' coming!