

All Saints Church Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

November 30-December 6, 2025

Sunday, November 30

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.* (v.2 CEB)

So many dire things happening around the globe, either in the socio-political realm or in nature and the cosmos, seem to indicate the end of the world is approaching. But, Matthew 24:36 tells us: “no one knows the day or the hour. No! Not even the angels in heaven know. The Son does not know. Only the Father knows.” We can’t possibly know when Christ will return, because even *He* doesn’t know. This raises another question: If we believe the Father and the Son are one (and we do), how can the Son not know?” Another mystery of our faith.

The Season of Advent is always about three comings of Christ—in the flesh long ago in Palestine; into our hearts through faith and the post-Pentecost work of the Holy Spirit; and his return at the end of all things as we know them. Last Advent, my awareness of the Lord’s imminent return was so heightened through the Scriptures and liturgies that I seriously wanted to amend my ways, should God find me in my present condition. Always a good thing to consider any time.

Amos 1:1-5, 13—2:8; Psalms 146, 147; Luke 21:5-19

Birthdays: Betsy Ambroselli, Phil Carter, Leigh DeLorenzi, Austin Musice, George Wiegand

Anniversaries: NONE

Monday, December 1

2 Peter 1:1-11 *By his divine power the Lord has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of the one who called us by his own honor and glory.* (v.3)

At times, every one of us fears we don’t have what it takes to go manage our lives—whether this reflection has to do with our natural gifts and talents, time and energy, health and strength, or our financial and material resources. All too often, a “spirit of scarcity” afflicts us as individuals and infiltrates church council meetings. But this wonderful verse from St. Peter’s second letter should be printed and stuck on our fridges, to remind us daily that God has given us *everything* we need, both for life (work the job, raise the kids, pay the bills, etc.) and godliness (living as Jesus taught us and by his example).

I confess that I, too, can fall into the dumps about whether I have enough for life or godliness. So, I thank the Lord for giving us Peter’s testimony about both God’s power and His calling on our lives, because God doesn’t call the equipped—He equips the called. And always with the best! Do you doubt it? Think back on all the Lord has given you and done for you. Remembrance leads to thanksgiving, praise, and hope. And if God is involved, hope does not disappoint us!

Amos 2:6-16; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Matthew 21:1-11

Birthdays: Piper Mandigo

Tuesday, December 2

Amos 3:1-11 *You only have I loved so deeply of all the families of the earth. Therefore, I will punish you for all your wrongdoing.* (v.2)

Ouch. The second sentence of this verse is painful to read. But doesn’t every parent (of either children or pets) know that we have to discipline—and occasionally punish—those we love the most, for their own good? As a good and wise heavenly parent, God does the same. Hebrews 12:6 says, “the Lord disciplines whomever he loves, and he punishes every son or daughter whom he accepts.”

Having lived more than 70 years, during 37 of which I’ve been a born-anew Christian, I’ve come to understand that while God’s discipline may be tough, it’s never mean or cruel. The One who love us unconditionally isn’t interested in breaking us. Rather, He yearns to restore us to the person He designed us to be. For those of us who may have experienced abusive childhoods, it may be difficult to understand that God is not out to get us. Tough love—the Divine kind—is actually good for us, and will help us grow in faith and character. Perhaps this Advent is a good time to present ourselves to the Lord for a much-needed makeover.

Psalms 5, 6; 2 Peter 1:12-21; Matthew 21:12-22

Birthdays: Dorothy Garnett, Avery Joynson, Miles Moberg, Jeff Parmer, Rob Poppell, Jill Toole

Wednesday, December 3

Matthew 21:23-32 *Then Jesus went into the temple and threw out all those who were selling and buying there. He pushed over the tables used for currency exchange and the chairs of those who sold doves. He said to them, “It’s written, My house will be called a house of prayer. But you’ve made it a hideout for crooks.”* (vv.12-13)

I don’t mean to be judgmental toward large non-denominational churches, but I have to admit honestly that I am bothered by the ones that feature cafés, shops filled with merchandise, tables stacked with books for sale, and other money-making ventures inside their “church” buildings on Sundays. Churches like these, which I have visited, feel more like a shopping mall than a place of worship. Do they remember this Bible verse? Do they not think it applies to them?

On the other hand, since Advent is a time of self-examination, perhaps we should each ask ourselves: From what do *I* profit, at the Lord’s expense? Have I failed to make *our* church a true house of prayer, either by my inattention, non-attendance, excessive social priorities, secret immorality, or... (you fill in the blank). We may need Jesus to push over some of our tables.

Amos 3:12—4:5; Psalm 119:1-24; 2 Peter 3:1-10

Birthdays: Lachlan Bill, Diane Boswell, Leslie Hardy, Joseph Cole, Margaret Morgan

Thursday, December 4

Psalm 18:1-20 *I love you, O LORD my strength, O LORD my stronghold, my crag, and my haven. My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge; you are worthy of praise.* (vv.1-2 BCP)

Do you remember playing hide-and-seek as a kid? Whoever had the best hiding place won, because we couldn’t be found. As grown-ups, there are times when we still seek the strongest fortress or safest shelter, that place of refuge where the big bad boogeyman—or whatever we fear most, or is causing us maximum anxiety—can’t get to us. We tend to hide ourselves in the wrong things (overwork, substance abuse, emotional withdrawal); we even resort to counterfeit religious pacifiers. And when all else fails, we turn to God. Why can’t we start there? Listen to the psalmist, “I love you, O LORD my strength ... my haven ... my rock in whom I put my trust, my shield... my refuge; you are worthy of praise.”

During Advent, try going daily to the Lord in prayer with love and praise, and see how that “attitude of gratitude” begins to transition into greater trust, and an increased willingness to believe that God alone is our refuge and shield. Also: put on the armor of God! See Ephesians 6:10-17.

Amos 4:16-13; 2 Peter 3:11-18; Matthew 21:33-46

Birthdays: Amy Kimbrough, Emmy Lawton, Michael Ressler

Friday, December 5

Jude 1-16 *I must write to urge you to fight for the faith delivered once and for all to God’s holy people. Godless people have slipped in among you. They turn the grace of our God into unrestrained immorality and deny our only master and Lord, Jesus Christ.* (vv.3b-4b CEB)

There’s little question we are living in an age of apostasy, heresy, syncretism (mixing the tenets of different religions), godlessness, and false teaching. Some of this theological garbage is coming from so-called “Christian” pulpits—on both the far right and the far left spectrums. First Timothy 4:3 says of such days as these: “There will come a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. They will collect teachers who say what they want to hear because they are self-centered.” So how do we, as faithful believers, navigate our way through the muck? Discernment and prayer. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He knows how to guide us and, through the Holy Spirit, can lead us to the truth and give us the right words to say—although, we need not get into fights with those whose ideas are so wrong as to be actually sinful or evil. But we can certainly pray for them! And we might possibly have to disassociate ourselves from such people.

Advent is meant to be a season of self-examination, prayer, and charitable giving. What if we checked ourselves, too, for wrong ideas; prayed to be corrected; and then gave to a cause that Jesus would definitely support?

Amos 5:1-17; Psalms 16, 17; Matthew 22:1-14

Birthdays: Angela Scala

Saturday, December 6

Psalm 20 *May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble, the Name of the God of Jacob defend you; Send you help from his holy place and strengthen you... Remember all your offerings and... Grant you your heart’s desire and prosper all your plans.* (vv.1-4 BCP)

This might be a nice verse to enclose in a birthday card. Also, it reminds me of Psalm 37:4-5 (BCP): “Take delight in the LORD, and he shall give you your heart’s desire. Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, and he will bring it to pass.” There are times when I’ve been so bogged down with everyday activities and stresses, I can’t even imagine what my “heart’s desire” would be—except longing for everyone to know Christ and for Him to return and fix the mess we’re in. Beyond that high, near-apocalyptic aspiration, there must be something closer to home.

So, what’s your “heart’s desire”? Is it consistent with what Jesus would approve? Is it for the betterment of yourself or your loved ones, or the world we live in? Can you trust the Lord to “prosper all your plans,” or “bring it to pass”? I guess it comes down to the question for all of us: For what am I hoping? Again, we ardently hope for the return of Christ, and for His salvation for all people. But for what should we hope, or be doing, in the meantime?

Martin Luther said, “If I knew the world would end tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree.” I like to think about my “apple trees”: my family, my church, my writing.. what apple trees can you plant as a way of staying grounded in God, no matter what happens? Take these few weeks of Advent to figure it out, prayerfully.

Amos 5:18-27; Psalm 21; Jude 17-25; Matthew 22:15-22

Birthdays: Marta Khoury, Ethan Marshall, Thelma Pitts, Florence Smith, Shirley Steinberger, Dorrie Swan, Renny Wendnagel

Anniversaries: Cliff & Elaine Clark, Nick & Theresa Sands

by Nina George-Hacker

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