

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### The Psalm

Psalm 146:5-10

5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;  
7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.  
9 The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
10 The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

### The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his  
disciples 3 and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait  
for another?" 4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:  
5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are  
cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought  
to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." 7 As they went  
away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into  
the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What, then, did you go  
out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are  
in royal palaces. 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you,  
and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am  
sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11  
"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than  
John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Old Testament Reading

The Psalm Reading

The New Testament Reading

The Gospel Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

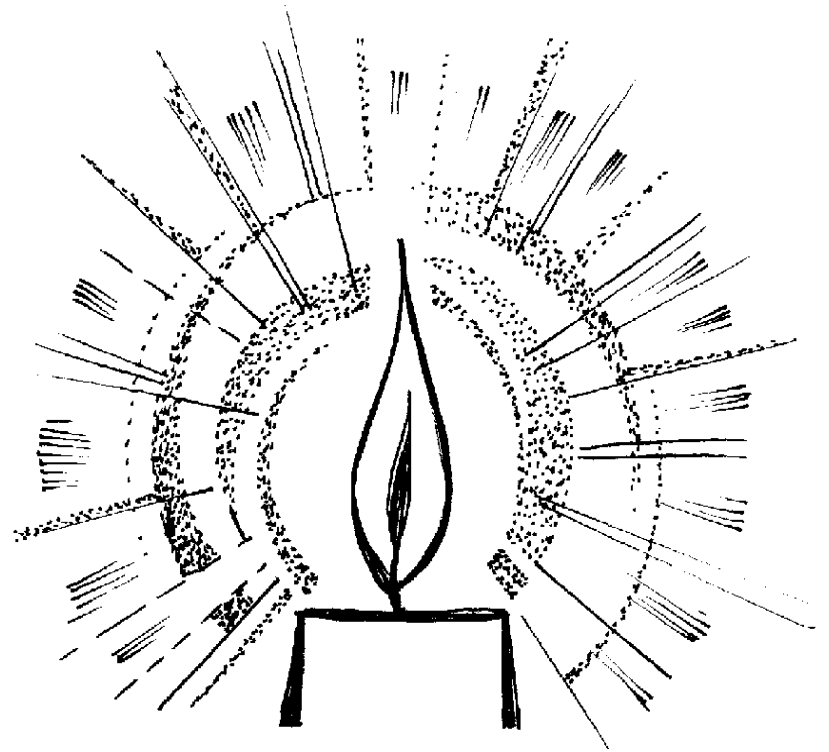
Matthew 1:18-25

# Peace Lutheran Church

## Word of Life: Signs of God's Reign

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent



John sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them."

**Matthew 11:2-5**

# Peace Lutheran Church

*The Church that Welcomes and Serves*

2106 South Cushman Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98405, [www.peacelutherantacoma.org](http://www.peacelutherantacoma.org)

(253) 383-1317 Church Office, (253) 383-0702 Peace Community Center

**Welcome to worship at Peace! Please see the Peace Lutheran Church website [www.peacelutherantacoma.org](http://www.peacelutherantacoma.org) or Facebook page (Facebook Peace Lutheran Tacoma) or YouTube channel (contact church office for link) for online worship videos.**

+ *We worship in person at 8:30 & 11 am and live stream 11 am on our Facebook page.*

+ *We worship in the summer at 10 am, also live streamed on our Facebook page.*

+ *Children and worship: We offer a Children's Worship Time during 11 am worship (10 am worship in summer). Pew Pal activity bags are hanging near the entrance for children to use in worship. Childcare (Nursery) is provided in the basement for children 4 and under.*

+ *A cry room is just outside the worship space. Please bring your own toys.*

+ ***Holy Communion** is open to all who desire God's gifts of grace and love. Bread and wine/grape juice are distributed at the time of Communion. A gluten-free option is available. If you are worshiping remotely, prepare bread and wine/grape juice for yourself. If you desire **Baptism**, please talk with Pastor John.*

+ ***Decisions about when a child should receive Communion** belong to the family. Communion preparation materials are available for parents to provide instruction at home, and Pastor John is happy to help families with this.*

+ ***Transportation:** Need a ride to worship? Call the church and press 120 to leave a message on the van line.*

+ ***If you would like to make an offering** to the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church, please give in person Sundays in the Offering Box, or send your financial contribution to Peace Lutheran Church (address above), donate through the Giving link on the church website, or call the church office 253-383-1317 to set up electronic giving.*

+ ***If you have questions or concerns or prayer requests or a desire for pastoral care** please contact Pastor John ([pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org](mailto:pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org), 253-383-1317 ext. 101).*

## THE GATHERING

### Welcome

### Opening Songs

"Come By Here, Lord" Text: traditional; Music: KUM BA YAH, traditional \*

Burgundy Book Hymn 43

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Text and music: Naida Hearn; © Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music, Inc. \*

Burgundy Book Hymn 268

"I Don't Mind Waiting"

Juanita Bynum 2012 Music World \*

I don't mind waiting (3x)... on the Lord.

### Advent Litany

### Sharing God's Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **People: And also with you.**

### Prayer

## THE WORD

*(See back of bulletin for readings)*

### The Psalm

Psalm 146:5-10

**The Gospel Song** "For He Alone Is Worthy" Text & Music: Adeste Fideles, John Francis Wade 1711-1786 \*

For he alone is worthy, (3x) Christ the Lord.

We'll give him all the glory. (3x).... Oh, come let us adore him. (3x)

### The Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

### The Gospel Song "For He Alone Is Worthy"

### Children's Message and the Lighting of the Advent Candles

**11 am Children's Worship Time** *(Children are invited to the basement classroom.)*

### Sermon

Brendan Nelson

**Song of the Day** "Soon and Very Soon"

Burgundy Book Hymn 38

Text and music: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945; VERY SOON, © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing \*

### 11 am Welcoming New Members

### Sharing About Life and Ministry, Celebrations and Concerns of the Community

**The Prayers of the People of God** *(After each petition, "God, hear our prayer.")*

### Sending Blessing for Carroll family

**Prayer Response:** "It's Me, O Lord" African American spiritual \* Burgundy Book Hymn 240

It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. (2x)

And my brother and my sister and it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. (2x)

### 11 am Gospel Choir

## THE MEAL

### The Words of Institution / The Lord's Prayer

Burgundy Book pg. 39

### The Meal Is Shared

*(All who desire God's gifts of grace and love are invited to share in the meal of Holy Communion. The red glasses are wine; the white glasses are grape juice. Individual prayer for comfort, strength, and encouragement is offered in the prayer corner during Communion and following the worship service.)*

**Communion Music** "I Love You, Lord, Today" Text: William Hubbard Edwin Hawkin, 1985 \*

I love you, I love you, I love you Lord today

Because you care for me in such a special way,

I praise you, I lift you up and I magnify your name,

That's why my heart is filled with praise.

My heart, my mind, my soul belongs to you,

You paid the price for me, way back on Calvary,

I praise you, I lift you up and I magnify your name,

That's why my heart is filled with praise.

### The Communion Blessing

## THE SENDING

### The Benediction

### Sending Song "He Reigns"

Our God is an awesome God. He reigns from heaven above

With wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God. (2x)

He's marvelous and he's glorious, your love has made me victorious,

You took away the fear in us, now we praise you cause you delivered us.

There ain't no stopping us, brother there ain't no blocking us,

Come on clap your hands with us. He reigns, he reigns, he reigns, forever and ever. (2x)

**The Dismissal** Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **People: Thanks be to God!**

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