

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The New Testament

Romans 8:26-39

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

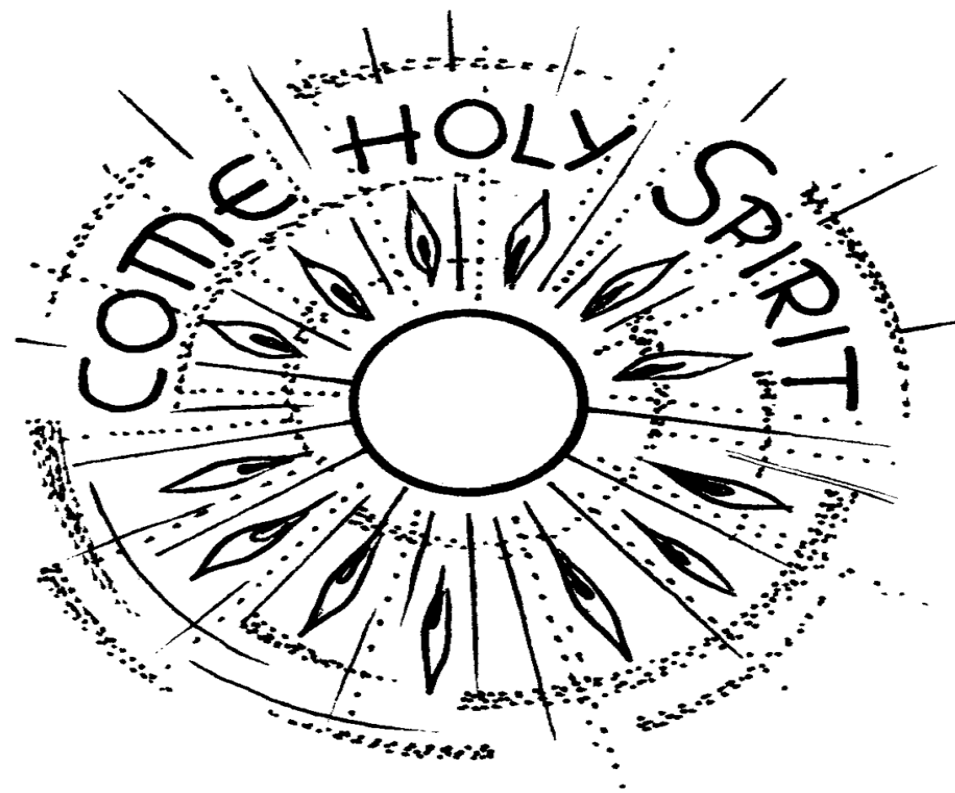
31 Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." 33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Peace Lutheran Church

Living in the Spirit: The Kingdom of Heaven

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Jesus put before them parables: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed... yeast... treasure hidden in a field... a merchant in search of fine pearls... a net..."

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-48

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

The Psalm

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

The New Testament Reading

Romans 9:1-5

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:13-21

Peace Lutheran Church

The Church that Welcomes and Serves

2106 South Cushman Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98405, 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 or Facebook page (Facebook Peace Lutheran Tacoma) or YouTube channel (contact church office for link) for online worship videos.

+ **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 worship. *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 worshipping 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, 253-383-1317 ext. 101).

THE GATHERING

Welcome

Opening Songs "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" Burgundy Book Hymn 191

Text: African American spiritual; Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual; arr. With One Voice, 1995 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress *

"Firm Foundation" Gody Carnes 2022 Here (Live) *

Christ is my firm foundation, the Rock on which I stand,

When everything around me is shaken I've never been more glad

That I put my faith in Jesus 'cause he's never let me down;

He's faithful through generations, so why would he fail now? He won't, he won't.

I've still got joy in chaos, I've got peace that makes no sense, so I won't be going under,

I'm not held by my own strength, 'cause I've built my life on Jesus.

He's never let me down. He's faithful in every season, so why would he fail now?

Refrain: He won't, he won't, he won't fail, he won't fail. (2x)

Rain came wind blew but my house was built on you.

I'm safe with you, I'm going to make it through.

Yeah, I'm going to make it through 'cause I'm standing strong on you,

I'm going to make it through 'cause my house is built on you.

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 New Testament

Romans 8:26-39

The Gospel Song "Listen, God Is Calling"

Burgundy Hymn Book 130

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922; Music: NEN LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, b. 1919; Tr. © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania; Arr. © Austin C. Lovelace *

Listen, listen, God is calling, through the word inviting,

Offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy. joy.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Gospel Song "Listen, God Is Calling"

Sermon

Brendan Nelson

Song of the Day "I Surrender All"

Burgundy Book Hymn 235

Text: Judson W. Van DeVenter 1855-1939; Music: SURRENDER, Winfield S. Weedon 1847-1908 *

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.")*

Prayer Response: "O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God"

Text and music: Edwin Hatch, Celebrating Our Faith 1999 *

O breathe on me, O breath of God, fill me with life anew.

That I may love the things you love and do what you would do.

O breathe on me, O breath of God, until my heart is pure.

Until my will is one with yours, to do and to endure.

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 Song "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Burgundy Book Hymn 193

Text: George N. Allen, 1812-1877; adapt. Thomas Dorsey, 1899-1993; Music: PRECIOUS LORD, Thomas Dorsey, 1899-1993, based on MAITLAND, George N. Allen © 1938 Unichappell Music, Inc. *

The Communion Blessing

THE SENDING

The Benediction

Sending Song "Worthy" Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Elevation Worship 2018, Hallelujah Here Below *

It was my cross you bore so I could live in the freedom you died for

And now my life is yours, and I will sing of your goodness forevermore.

Refrain: Worthy is your name, Jesus, you deserve the praise, worthy is your name.

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

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