

**Sermon for December 7, 2025, Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Texts: Isaiah 11:1–10; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12**  
**Title: *"Until the Return of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords"***

**Introduction – Peace in an Unpeaceful World**

Have you ever stood beside a calm lake early in the morning—before the wind stirs, before the day begins—and noticed how still the water is? Even when storms had raged the night before, the surface settles into a quiet mirror. That stillness is rare, but when we see it, something in us breathes a little deeper.

Today, as we light the second candle of Advent—the candle of Peace—we remember how much our hearts long for that kind of stillness. Though we may carry personal burdens, anxieties, and the quiet pressures of daily life, our inner tides can rise and fall like restless waves. And yet, Advent comes whispering God's promise: a peace not shaped by circumstances but rooted in His presence, i.e., peace that begins in God and grows within us. And this morning, Scripture speaks through three voices—Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist—each pointing us toward the peace Christ brings.

**First. Isaiah's Vision: Peace from a New Shoot (Isaiah 11:1–10).**

Isaiah looks at the fallen line of King David—a great tree cut down to a stump and declares, **"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse."** Where everything seemed hopeless, God brings new life. This coming One, the Messiah, will be filled with the Spirit of wisdom, counsel, strength, and reverence. Under His reign, the world is so transformed that **"the wolf shall live with the lamb... and a little child shall lead them."** This is more than the absence of conflict. It is the presence of God's justice and harmony. So, the first point is this: God's peace begins not with a warrior but with **a child**.

**Second. Paul's peace for community (Romans 15:4–13).**

Paul writes to a church made up of Jews and Gentiles, which is consisted in different cultures, different customs, and different convictions. And he urges them to live in harmony. He reminds us that the Scriptures were given "so that... we might have hope." Then he offers this blessing: **"May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another."** Peace takes shape when we see one another through Christ's eyes. That is, when we lay down pride, receive grace, and welcome those Christ welcomes. In Christ, walls fall, divisions fade, and unity becomes possible.

It was truly inspiring for me to watch Pope Leo XIV during his visits to Turkey and Lebanon, where he took part in meaningful encounters with

Orthodox Patriarchs and Muslim leaders. As the head of the largest Christian denomination, Pope Leo's mission and pilgrimage to these historic centers of Christianity encourages all Christians to live more deeply into Christ's vision of harmony, unity, and peace. He did an excellent job.

### **Third. John's Call: Peace Through Repentance ((Matthew 3:1–12)).**

Then we hear the voice of John the Baptist crying from the wilderness: **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!"** It may feel unusual to connect repentance with peace, but this is exactly where peace begins. We cannot have peace with God, or with others, while holding onto the attitudes and actions that destroy peace, which are our pride, our selfishness, our indifference, and our sin. John prepares the way for the Prince of Peace. He reminds us that God's peace is not passive. It transforms us. It produces fruit worthy of repentance. It clears the road so that Christ may reign in our lives.

**Conclusion: So, what does it mean for us to *awake* to Christ's peace?** It means allowing His peace to renew our practice for **peace. That is, peace that forgives, peace that listens, peace that replaces panic with prayer, peace that chooses grace over gossip, peace that refuses bitterness and makes room for mercy.**

Christ's peace is not simply inner calm, but it is our mission in the world. Every time we light this second candle, we declare that peace is possible, not because the world is peaceful, but because **the appearance of "the return of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords" is near.** On that day the wolf and the lamb will lie down together. On that day justice and mercy will be embraced. On that day peace will cover the earth. Until that day comes, may we walk as children of His peace. **Amen.**