

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

November 5, 2023—November 12, 2023

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 11/5/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
**New Office Open House &
Refreshments**
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 11/6/23

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 11/7/23

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 11/8/23

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Financial Support Meeting

THURSDAY 11/9/23

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Antique Club
7:00PM AI-Anon

FRIDAY 11/10/23

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 11/11/23

No events

The 24th Sunday of Pentecost 11/12/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM
FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

Varies—Pastor Althea is always
available by appointment.

SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday
and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace
Lutheran Church. Present this on
any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner
6710 Tilton Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
609-641-3669

November 5, 2023

All Saints Sunday



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244
Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982
Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org
E-mail: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor ☩ Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

We welcome you to worship here at Grace!

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.
Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

~ GATHERING ~

Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!

Introduction

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Lacrimosa

arr. by Martha C. Hopkins

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God, **for we have feasted on your goodness. You are our hope and joy. Strengthen us by this food, and send us to share with the world your love and welcome others to your house, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ SENDING ~

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

May Almighty God, † Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, watch over you, guide you, and give you faith for the journey now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

For All The Saints
VERSES 5, 6, & 7

ELW #422

Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.

POSTLUDE

For All The Saints arr.by Ellen Jane Lorenz

DISMISSAL Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*We are glad for your presence today.
We hope you come again soon!*

We thank all those serving in worship today! Reader: Ruth Bowden

The candles sponsor this week is: Mary Goodman, in loving memory of Vincent Guy Sanborn, IV.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*WOV page 22*

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet of Christ. All are welcome. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN*Lamb of God**WOV page 25***DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN*Shall We Gather at The River*

ELW #423

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE*WOV page 12***HYMN OF PRAISE***WOV page 14***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the great joy you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.

*Please be seated.***~ WORD ~****FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17**

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 34:1-10, 22



¹I will bless the LORD¹ at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be¹ in my mouth.

LOVED ONES WE ARE REMEMBERING TODAY:

Dorothy “Dot” Reichelt
Henry “Skip” Herbert Uhrmann
Catherine M. Krattenmaker
Arlene Frances Freed
Willard “Bill” Evans Beall
Eileen Krog Rumble
Carl B. Platt
Vincent Guy Sanborn, IV
Daniel “Danny” Graham
Robert Mawhinney
The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Hughes
Joan Elizabeth Glenz
Wilbur “Mike” Wiederwax
Barbara Johnson
Celia Jean Kuhlmann
Robert “Bob” Frank Traa

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~ **HOLY COMMUNION** ~

GREAT THANKSGIVING

WOV page 22

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *Brief silence.*

A: Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy Creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to ways of healing of the earth so all creation thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy Advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Holy Healer, bless the brokenhearted and all who mourn. Send your compassion to all who grieve, grant wholeness to those who are sick, and accompany the dying. Be near to all who need you *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Holy Comforter, we are ever thankful for all your creatures. We are especially grateful for the many years we are able to spend caring for the pets we bring into our families. Today we remember our beloved pets... (*names of beloved pets are read now*). We entrust them to your love and care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Holy One, for the saints who now rest in your mercy, we give you thanks. We remember their witness of faithfulness and love... (*names of loved ones are read now*) Praise to you for the eternal life they have been given through Jesus Christ. Grant us peace and trust in your promises that we will one day be reunited with them in your heavenly kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

²**I will glory¹ in the LORD;**

let the lowly hear¹ and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness¹ of the LORD;
let us exalt God's¹ name together.

⁴**I sought the LORD, who¹ answered me
and delivered me from¹ all my terrors.**

⁵Look upon the LORD¹ and be radiant,
and let not your faces¹ be ashamed.

⁶**I called in my affliction, and¹ the LORD heard me
and saved me from¹ all my troubles.**

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who¹ fear the LORD
and de-¹livers them.

⁸**Taste and see that the¹ LORD is good;
happy are they who take ref-¹uge in God!**

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints¹ of the LORD,
for those who fear the¹ LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and¹ suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing¹ that is good.**

²²O LORD, you redeem the life¹ of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will¹ not be punished.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *For All the Saints*
VERSES 1, 2, 3, & 4

ELW #422

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM *Souls of the Righteous* by T. Tertius Noble
Solo quartet: Corinne Rhodes, Mary Ann Gring, Charles Bowden, Andrew Ehrhardt

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Let the Vineyards* *WOV page 21*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring these gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**