

January 5, 2025

2nd Sunday of Christmas



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

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Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, 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 us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium

by T. Frederick H. Candlyn

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

ELW #275

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 #28

HYMN OF PRAISE

WOV #29

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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.

PSALM 147: 12-20

- ¹² Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,
¹³ **who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**
¹⁴ God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.
¹⁵ **God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly.**
¹⁶ God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.
¹⁷ **God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the ^l word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the ^l waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the ^l word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- ^l ments to Israel.**

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any ^l other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. ^l Hallelujah!

READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

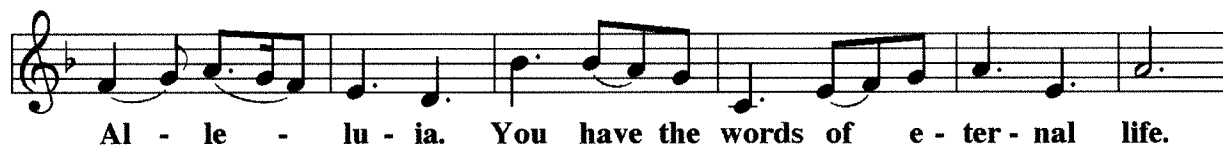
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 1: [1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

[¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all

people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Of The Father's Love Begotten*

ELW #295

VERSE 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 4 MEN

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.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Go Tell It On The Mountain

by John Abdenour

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

WOV #35

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "God of grace," please respond with "receive our prayer."

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

WOV #36

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

WOV #39

COMMUNION HYMNS

*Peace Came to Earth
In the Bleak Midwinter*

ELW #285

ELW #294

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW #876

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

POSTLUDE

The Snow Lay On The Ground

by Leo Sowerby

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.
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:
Worship Assistant: Ruth Bowden**

**The flowers sponsor this week is: Donna Breslyn,
in honor of Pastor Wendolyn Trozzo!**



Announcements and Information

Giving envelopes for 2025 are located in the narthex if you have not picked yours up yet. Please be sure you take the ones with your name on them.

Church Directories are here! If you did not get yours yet, please see Corinne Rhodes or Carol Landes after worship or stop by the church office during Corinne's office hours to receive yours.

The January Messenger was emailed. However, everyone must receive a hard copy this time, because inside is important information regarding our Annual Congregational Meeting. If you did not pick yours up on the way in, they are in the narthex in envelopes alphabetically, with your name and address on them. Please take yours. Any not taken at the end of today will need to be mailed on Monday.

Pastor Wendolyn is leading a **Funeral Planning Workshop next Sunday, January 12 at 12:00 noon** in the conference room following our Sunday Fellowship & Coffee Hour.

We will have our **Budget Hearing on Sunday, January 19 during the 10:15 AM Worship Service**. This will be an opportunity to have our proposed 2025 budget reviewed and to ask any question you may have regarding it.

Please mark your calendars for our **Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 2 immediately following the 10:15 AM Worship Service**. Your attendance for this is very important!

Home Reading of the Week:

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

January 5, 2025—January 12, 2025

2nd Sunday of Christmas 1/5/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
Joyful Noise Offering:
Beacon Animal Rescue
 4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 1/6/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 1/7/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 1/8/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
 6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Support Meeting
 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 1/9/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Grief Support Group
 7:00PM Antique Club
 7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 1/10/25

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

SATURDAY 1/11/25

7:30AM Weight Watchers

3rd Sunday of Christmas 1/12/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
 8:45AM Adult Forum Group
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
Fellowship Hour:
Sponsored by WELCA
12:00PM Funeral Planning Workshop

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM

Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM