November 15, 2026 **Pentecost 25**



Grace Lutheran Church

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

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Reverend ✞ Elizabeth Frey, Pastor, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Note that all text written in bold is for congregation participation. Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship red hymnal found in the pews.
S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.

GATHERING

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

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

WELCOME Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE *Arioso* by Alexander Schreiner

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand* ELW #437

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 ELW *S*138

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is the Feast* ELW *S*140

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON
CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD *as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the* LORD.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.

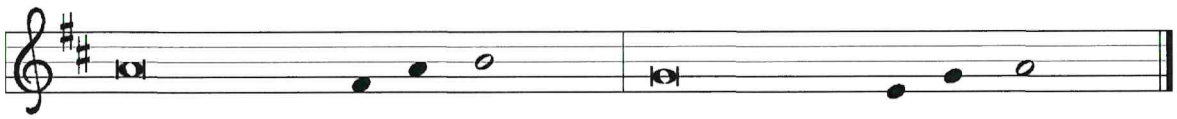
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."

13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

PSALM 90:1-8, 12



1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**

and like a watch | in the night;
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.

12 So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
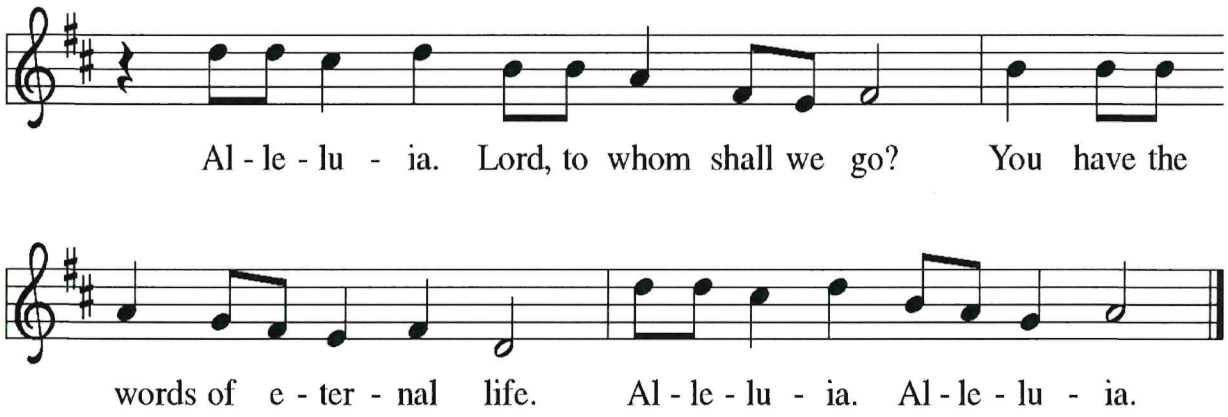
1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and
sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you
yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like
a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you,
brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise
you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of
the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us
not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober,
7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get
drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober
and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the
hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for
us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

[11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who

had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Please be seated.

SERMON Rev. Elizabeth Frey

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Christ the Same* WOV #778

THE APOSTLE'S 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

When the pastor or worship assistant says, "God, in your mercy," please respond with, **"Hear our prayer."**

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Steal Away* arr. by H. T. Burleigh

Soprano: Ruth Bowden

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart O God* WOV #732

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING ELW *S*144

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW *S*144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. 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 via the side aisles. 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 and cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, **we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and**

feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ELW #632
Verses 1, 3, 6 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 CHOIR, Verse 5 MEN

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

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Encourage one another.
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: Corinne Rhodes

The flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal, in celebration of her granddaughter Rebeca's 18th birthday!

The candles sponsor this week is: Mary Goodman, in loving memory of Ron.

We will continue having Fellowship following 10:15 worship on the first Sunday of each month. WELCA will handle set up and clean up for each one. We will need volunteers to provide snacks each month. Please consider signing up to provide a snack for our next Fellowship on December 6. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

The Food Pantry is in need of turkeys to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for families in need this holiday season. Your donations are very greatly appreciated!

Up-Coming Events

Sunday, November 22 following 10:15 Worship:
Family Deck the Halls
Please plan to stay after worship for a time of food, fellowship, and decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas!

Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 PM:
Cape Shore Chorale Christmas Concert
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Bay Avenue in Ocean City



Mark your calendars for Cookies, Crafts, & Christmas Cheer: An All-Ages Christmas Celebration!

Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Sunday, December 13 following 10:15 Worship: Informational Meeting on Building Security

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HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

November 15, 2026-November 22, 2026

25th Sunday of Pentecost 11/15/26
8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 11/16/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Grief Support Group
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 11/17/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 11/18/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 11/19/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
9:30AM Bible Study
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
5:30PM AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon
7:00PM Church Council Meeting

FRIDAY 11/20/26
10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 11/21/26
7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

Christ the King Sunday 11/22/26
8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Family Deck the Halls following worship!

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

Office Hours This Week:
Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00
Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00