

Grace Lutheran Church

8:00 am: Spoken Service & 10:15 am: Liturgical Service

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

² Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: pastoralthea3@gmail.com or by phone 484-345-0399.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to belong to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who believe as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to *become* caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today

Worship Assistant: Kevin Thomas

Altar Guild: Brenda Traa

Sound/Video Technician: Jim Foreman, Michael Piskun, Shawn Welfield

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace! We are trying a new way of listing our prayer concerns in the coming weeks. If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

Members of Grace: Betty N., John N., John S., Joyce B., Ruth T., Carol F. Family and friends: Family of Regina, (relative of Marlene Doer); Elliott, Gage, (friends of Pastor Althea); Jody (niece of Grings); Cecilia, and Richard (friends of Welfields); Shirley & Carl (Parents of Debbie Kleuser); Jim, Vicki, (friends of Meg LaSpina), Payton (friend of Joyce Bianco), Annmarie (friends of Marlene D.), Carol Waters (friend of Claire Brick), Dotte Currie, friend of Deborah Walker), Karen Gubilo (daughter of Sue Robinson); Joann Wehrhan (sister of Diana McArdle) Those Serving Our Country: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USM; Cainan Johnson, USAF

<u>At Home</u> - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

WITH ONE VOICE

LITURGY

Congregation responses in bold print.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE Chorale—Prelude on *St. Magnus* arr. By Robert J. Powell

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

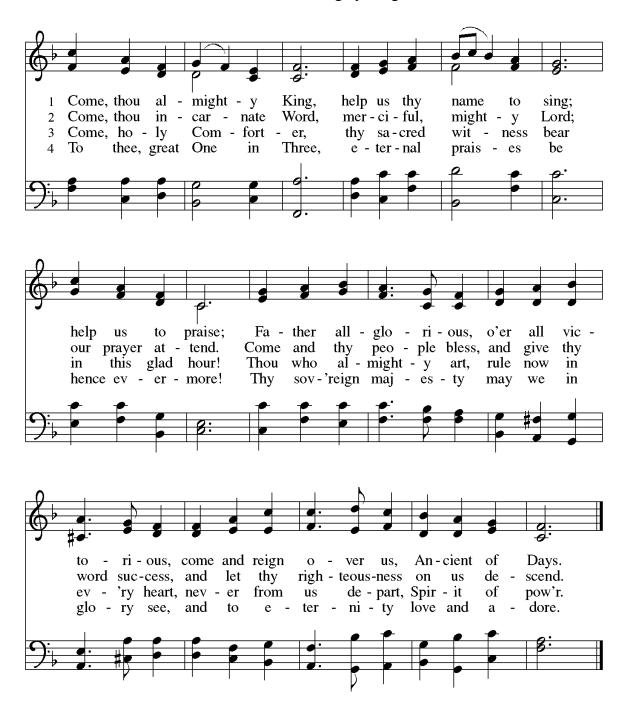
Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.

We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger.

We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for + Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

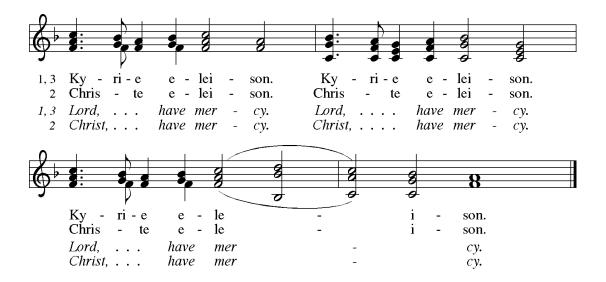


Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt. Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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.**

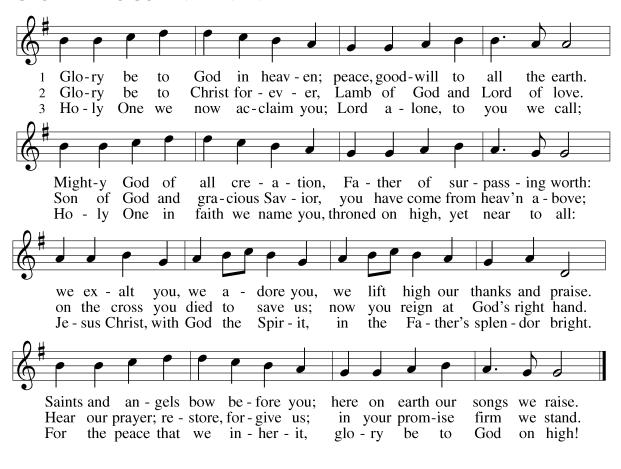
KYRIE



Music: Russian Orthodox traditional



GLORY BE TO GOD IN HEAVEN



Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on "Gloria in excelsis Deo" Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together....Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Tyler Joseph Ruffenach Born: March 6, 2020

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Baptized: November 21, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Parents: Mark and Ashley Ruffenach **Sponsors:** Demetri and Amy Stratis

WELCOME TO BAPTISM

Pastor: Dear friends in Christ, we gather today with the family of Tyler Joseph Ruffenach who have brought him to be baptized.

Together, let us welcome them to this community of faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Let us pray...O God, again and again in ages past you showed your mercy and grace to children. You saved the infant Moses from death with the help of his mother and sister. As you blessed Joseph and Mary and the child Jesus, bless also the families, that they may care for this child entrusted to them, bring them to baptism and to the bread and cup of blessing, and help them mature in faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: God brings you in peace and joy to fullness of life in Christ and calls you to the waters of baptism.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Family: We present Tyler for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Tyler baptized into Christ? **I do.**

As you bring Tyler, to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teacher him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life? I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Tyler in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support Tyler and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? I do

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you believe in God, the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through

Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

BAPTISM

Tyler, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Let us pray together.... We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Tyler with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever. Amen.

Tyler, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousands served him,

and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM: Psalm 93

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed in majesty and | armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it can- not be moved.

²Ever since the world began, your throne has | been established; you are from | everlasting.

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted | up their voice; the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.

⁴Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers | of the sea, mightier is the LORD who | dwells on high.

⁵Your testimonies are | very sure, and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and for- | evermore.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

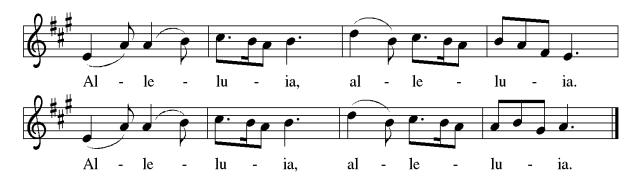
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the sixth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you. O Christ.

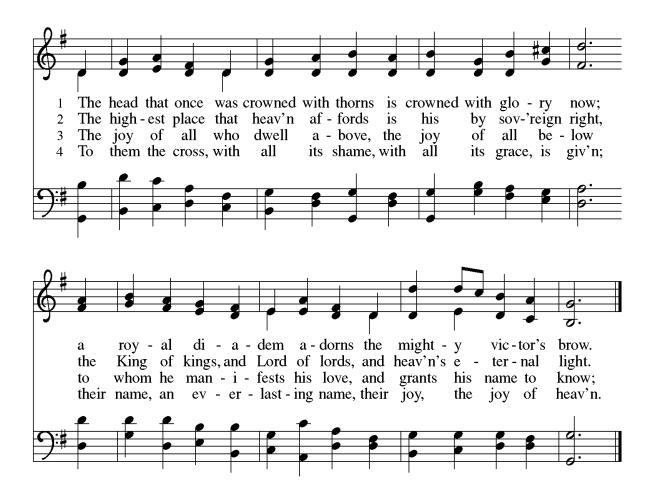
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright



HYMN OF THE DAY The Head that Once Was Crowned **ELW # 432** Verse 1, Choir; Verses 2, 4, & 6, All; Verse 3, Women; Verse 5, Men



- 5 They suffer with their Lord below; they reign with him above; their profit and their joy to know the myst'ry of his love.
- 6 The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him; his people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme!

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855

Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669-1707

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING Habitat for Humanity - Atlantic County

Monthly special offering for a designated local, national and international ministry. Our Third-Sunday usher team takes a few extra minutes before our regular weekly offering to collect this special offering of coin donations.

WEEKLY OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

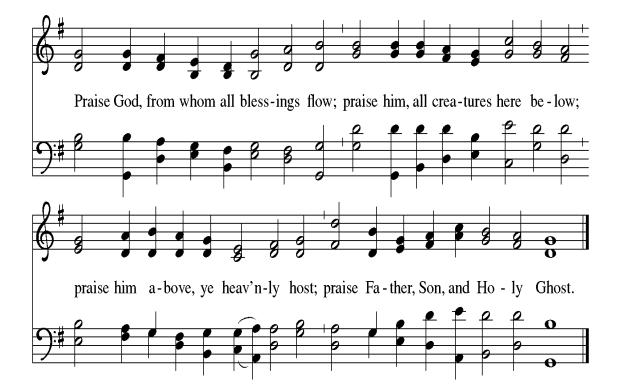
Crown Him With Many Crowns

arr. By John F. Wilson

Please stand as you are able

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow



OFFERING PRAYER

We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.

Let us pray. God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world.

Let us pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Leader: God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Leader: God, you sent your Son Jesus as Messiah of all creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Leader: God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Give guidance to the members of international alliances in choosing nonviolent paths toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Leader: God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community. Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Pastor: God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering especially all those we name now or in our hearts Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Leader: God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Pastor: God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

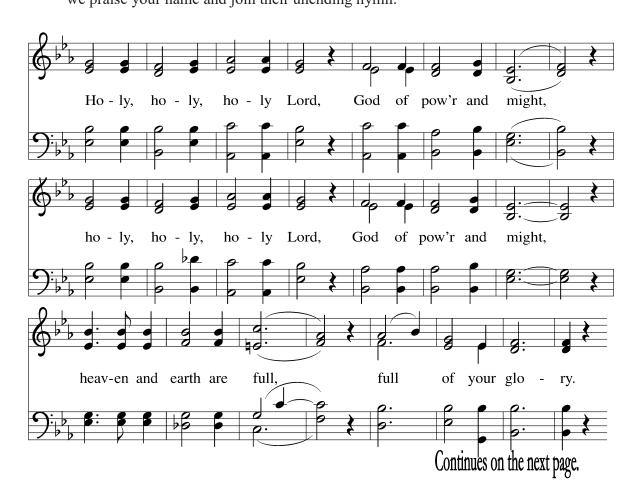
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On 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.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by Christ, let us pray.

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

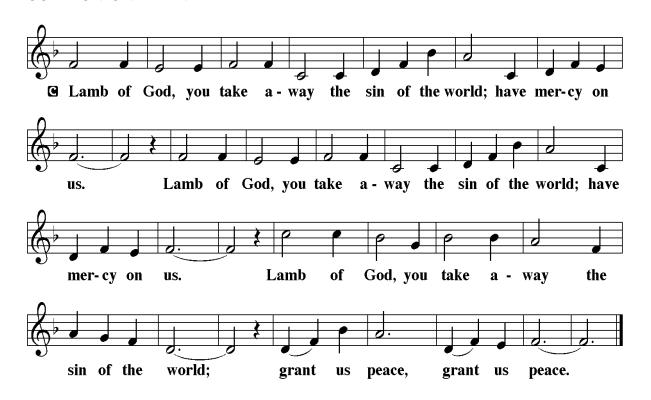
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

Communion will be offered in two ways, continuous at the chancel step, and at the direction of Pastor after everyone has come forward (for those at home online and those who choose to remain seated).

Follow the direction of the ushers to come to the front or remain seated and after all have come forward, direction for the prefilled host and grape juice will be given.

COMMUNION HYMN



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

IF YOU CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD:

Follow the directions of Pastor and the Ushers.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT OR YOU ARE ONLINE:

Prepare your elements after all have come forward and wait for direction from Pastor.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

As we have experienced Christ, our Savior, in this meal, may Almighty God continue to nourish you and encourage you as you continue your journey in faith. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal.

Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life,

+ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal Music on page 22

ELW #805

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus

from Handel's Messiah

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

Diana has announced that she will be becoming part time beginning next year. We are very gracious for her many years of service!

This means that we are searching for two additional staff people. We have the OPEN POSITIONS of SECRETARY and SOUND TECHNICIAN. We will fill these positions as soon as appropriate persons are found. Anyone may apply. Church membership not required.

Please PASS THE WORD TO ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED in these positions. Speak with Pastor Althea for more information and in order to apply for either position. Pastor Althea contact info - phone: 484-345-0399 and email: pastoralthea3@gmail.com



14th Annual Christmas

Cookje Walk

Saturday, December 11th

9:00 am until sold out!

Gently Used Holiday Items



Grace Lutheran Church 11 East Dawes Ave. Dawes Ave. & Shore Road Somers Point, NJ 08244 609-927-3082









Sunday 11/21 CHRIST THE KING

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge 8:45 am - Adult Sunday School 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion

Baptism: Tyler Joseph Ruffenach **Grace Friends Sunday School** 4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge

Monday 11/22

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

Tuesday 11/23

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 6:30 pm - NA

Wednesday 11/24 PANTRY CLOSED

7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

Thursday 11/25 PANTRY CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

Friday 11/26 OFFICE CLOSED

7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

Saturday 11/27



Thanksgiving

Sunday 11/28 ADVENT 1

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge 8:45 am - Adult Sunday School 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion Grace Friends Sunday School

4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge 6:00 pm - Confirmation Class @Reformation Lutheran Church

Dedications



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In Honor of My granddaughter, Zora Espinoza's, 5th Birthday Given by Gay Blohm

BULLETINS

In Honor of the baptism of our grandson Tyler Given with love, Joe & Kathy Ruffenach and Dottie McLeer