First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021



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: Stephen Gring

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., Mary G. 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 At Home - 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 Bread of Life - Setting 5 Congregation responses in bold print.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Fling Wide the Door

By Robert Buckley Farlee

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- *Pastor:* Almighty God, you know us inside and out. You are with us in our past, present, and future. We cannot escape your presence.
- *Pastor:* You know us before we were born. You watch over us day and night, and always hear our prayers. We come before you now asking for forgiveness when we stray. Bring us closer to your Holy Spirit once again. **Amen.**

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

Pastor: God of Love,

We confess that we have turned away from you, God. We have not trusted your promises to hear us. We have doubts sometimes that you are by our side. We let worry and fear consume us. We do not always treat our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may know your deep love for us again and glorify your holy name in all that we say and do. Amen.

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was crucified and died for us and for all our sins. As a minister of the church of Christ, I declare to you that God forgives all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. God has never left you. Return to the Lord your God, with joyful hearts, ready to accept God's gift of grace. Amen. ⁴**OPENING HYMN**

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



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





GLORY TO GOD





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together....Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to our sinful ways, redeem us, and return us to a path of faith, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Advent 1

First Week of Advent

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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9 WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel. ¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To [|] you, O Lord, / I lift [|] up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph[|] over me.

³Let none who look to you be [|] put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your [|] ways, O LORD, / and teach [|] me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your [|] truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all[|] the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas-¹ sion and love, for they are from ¹ everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and [|] my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up-¹ right, O LORD;

therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

⁹You lead the low-[|] ly in justice / and teach the low-[|] ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Luke the twenty-first chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright



HYMN OF THE DAY Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

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 Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending arr. By Dale Grotenhuis

* Congregation, please join choir when invited

Charles Wesley, 1758

Westminster Abbey Henry Purcell, c. 1692 arr. Dale Grotenhuis



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OFFERING PRAYER

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

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God,

You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we have many blessings to be thankful for in our lives. You have changed our lives forever with your Word made flesh. Grant us courage to change the lives of others with your Good News. Bless our congregation, this community, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people who are in need of God's comfort and love.

A brief silence.

Leader: God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your image in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: God of all creation, bring healing to our planet and restore our natural resources. Grant wisdom and guidance to all who work to preserve our earthly home. We pray for all those areas affected by natural disasters, and for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to all officials and leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait or who need your healing touch. Be with all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and transitions of every kind. We pray especially for all those we name now or in our hearts... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus, our coming Messiah. **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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

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 together... Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

²⁰ 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.*

Pastor: May God bless you and hold you close.

May Christ's presence guide you in all you do. May the Holy Spirit shine in you and bring others closer to God's love and + give you everlasting hope. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Fling Wide the Door

ELW # 259

Please be seated for the postlude. Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

by Paul Manz

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go and spread God's love as we prepare for the Messiah! **Thanks be to God!**

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Advent Bible Reading Plan

God's Good Creation and the Brokenness of Humanity:

- 1. Creation: Genesis 1-2, John 1:1-14
- 2. **Fall:** Genesis 3
- 3. The Flood: Genesis 6, 8:13-9:17
- 4. Tower of Babel: Genesis 11

God's Promise to Bless All Nations Through His People:

- 5. **Abraham:** Genesis 12:1-9; 15; 17:1-13
- 6. **Isaac:** Genesis 17:15-21; 21:1-7
- 7. Sacrifice of Isaac: Genesis 22, Galatians 3:6-14, 29
- 8. **Jacob:** Genesis 28, 35:1-15
- 9. Joseph: Genesis 37, 50

God's Covenant with Israel:

- 10. **Passover**: Exodus 12
- 11. **10 Commandments**: Deuteronomy 5-6, Matthew 22:34-40

- Israel's Broken Kingdom: Kings and Prophets:
- 13. **David Anointed:** Judges 2:16-23, 1 Samuel 8:4-22; 16:1-13
- 14. King David: 2 Samuel 5, 7
- 15. Solomon: 1 Kings 8-9
- 16. Elijah: 1 Kings 18
- 17. Micah: Micah 5, 7
- 18: **Isaiah:** Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah 11:1-11, Jeremiah 31:27-40
- 19: Suffering Servant: Isaiah 52-53
- 20. **Exile:** 2 Chronicles 36:15-21; Zechariah 9:9-17
- 21. Daniel: Daniel 6-7

Promised One Fulfilled in Jesus:

- 22. Jesus' birth foretold: Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 1
- 23. **Jesus' birth:** Luke 2:1-38, Matthew 2:1-12
- 24. King Jesus: Hebrews 1, Colossians 1:15-20
- 25. Follow King Jesus: Hebrews 11-12:3

12. Joshua: Joshua 3-4



Events This Week - November 21 - 28, 2021

Sunday 11/28 ADVENT 1

Sunday 11/28 ADVENTT 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

Monday 11/29 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

<u>Tuesday 11/30</u> 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 10:00 am - South Shore Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm - NA

Wednesday 12/1 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Duplicate Bridge 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

Dedications

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In loving memory of Pam LaSpina, beloved wife, mother, mommom, and friend. We miss you so much. Given by Michael, Meg, Alicia, Joe, Joseph, Juliana and James

<u>Thursday 12/2</u> 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

Friday 12/3 10:30 am - Grace Stitchers 7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

Saturday 12/4



Sunday 12/5ADVENT 28:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge8:45 am - Adult Sunday School10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
Holy Communion
Grace Friends Sunday School4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge6:00 pm - Confirmation Class @ Grace



