

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: Ruth Bowden

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., & Carol F.

Family and friends: Family of Regina, (relative of Marlene Doer); Gage, Donna (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) Gwen (mother of Corinne Rhodes); Bernadette, Lou, Ron,

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

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

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding arr. By Malcolm Highway

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.

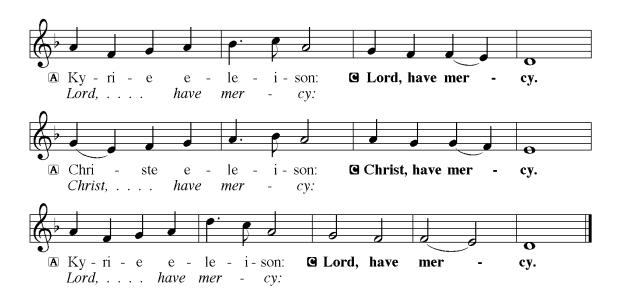


Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Advent 2

Second Week of Advent

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,

let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah Verse Two **WOV # 630**



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly He home-ward. them your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King Lift glo - ry. of com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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WORD

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

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,

you have come to your people and | set them free.

69 You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²to show mercy | to our forebears, and to remember your | holy covenant.

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

76 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to pre- pare the way,

77 to give God's people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

79 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

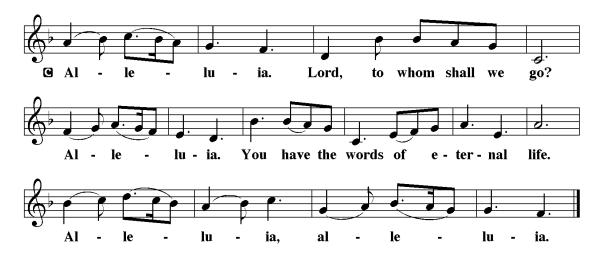
The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Luke the third chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON Rev. Althea Albright





Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft, B. Burrows, Executor.

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

People of Promise, Arise!

Arr. By Joseph Martin

Please stand as you are able



PRESENTATION OF GIFTS Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



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: You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming.

Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: Stir up wisdom and courage in leaders from our nation, our community and local businesses, and our schools. Guide them all in making decisions and serving all who are in their care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill We pray especially for all those we name now or in our hearts....Grant them healing and wholeness. 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. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

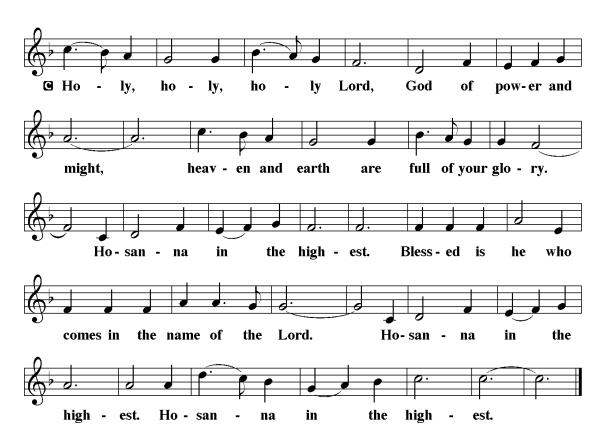
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

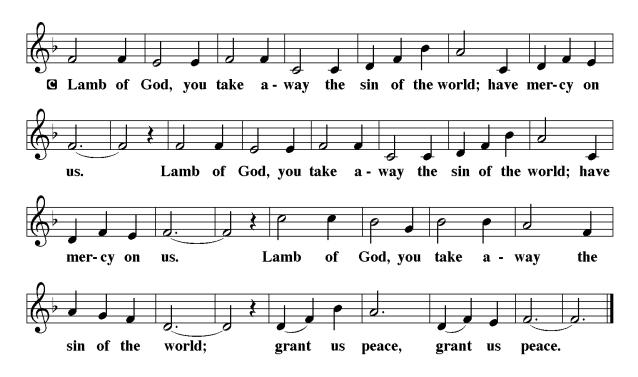
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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 nourish you and encourage you as you continue your journey in faith. **Amen.**

to

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.

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 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! ELW # 246
Verses 1, 3, & 5, All; Verse 2, Men; Verse 4, Women

Music is located on page 20

Please be seated for the postlude.

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

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

arr. by Paul Manz

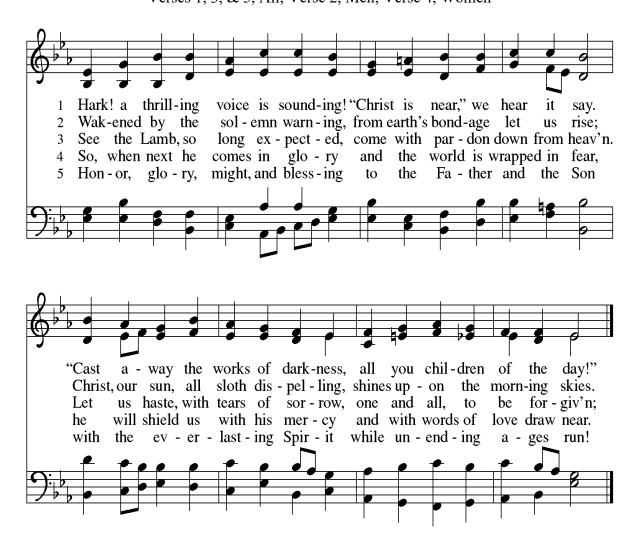
DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God!

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Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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

12. Joshua: Joshua 3-4

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



14th Annual Christmas

Cookie 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 12/5 ADVENT 2

8:00 am - Spoken Service Lounge

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion

Grace Friends Sunday School

 $3{:}00\ pm$ - Comfort 4 Joy Holiday Concert

@ Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Bay Ave. & 30th St. in Ocean City

4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge

6:00 pm - Confirmation Class @ Grace

Monday 12/6

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

Tuesday 12/7

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

Wednesday 12/8

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Duplicate Bridge 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall 7:30 pm - Compassionate Friends

Thursday 12/9

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

Friday 12/10

10:30 am - Grace Stitchers 7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

Saturday 12/11



Sunday 12/12 ADVENT 3

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Loungé 8:45 am - Adult Sunday School 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion Grace Friends Sunday School 4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge

Dedications

Sanctuary Flowers



In Honor of Karen and Steve Sundra's 25th Wedding Anniversary Given by Brenda and Bob Traa In Loving Memory of my dad, Walter R. Wopatek Given by Kathy