

November 24, 2024 Christ the King Sunday

1924 - 2024



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

Here at Grace we love one another but often don't know each other's names. We will be using name tags for the next several weeks, each week with a question to answer on your name tag along with your name. This week, **write on your name tag your name in big bold font**, and under it **tell us what your favorite Church season is: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, or Pentecost.**

INTRODUCTION

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

"Christ is the King of our lives, and his kingship is shown throughout his life. We worship this Christ, our Lord."

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

by H. Alexander Matthews

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end. **Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy, **we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the baptismal waters, that we may follow in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.**

These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are † forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in Christ's saving power. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW #660

GREETING and PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray...

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.**

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD - CHRIST THE KING

ADVENT: We wait for the Lord, our Promised Messiah

A reading from Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee,² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John in the wilderness.³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,⁴ as 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. Every 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; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

HYMN: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, #257, verses 1 & 7

Reflection: Christ our King enters a world that is already full of kings. Why then do we wait for this king? If other kings have not brought salvation to their people and their lands, what kind of king shall we look for?

CHRISTMAS: Glory to the newborn King!

HYMN: Hark the Herald Angels Sing #270 verse 1

A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Reflection: We welcome the newborn king with fanfare, yet his birth lacked any entourage, protection, authority, or resource that would mark the birth of a prince. The King of Kings comes down to the commoners and builds a new kind of kingdom.

EPIPHANY: Jesus is baptized and begins his ministry of calling, healing, and performing acts of power that challenge the "way things are".

A reading from Isaiah 61:1-2

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

HYMN: Arise, your Light has Come #314 verses 1 & 4

Reflection: In baptism, God proclaims Jesus' identity, yet the people and powers of his day were slow to recognize him as the Messiah, one worth following. We look to his deeds of power - changing meager water into abundant wine - and we are invited to follow him, to grow in loyalty and trust.

LENT: What kind of a King moves toward the cross? A king who is moved not by fear, but by love.

HYMN: My Song is Love Unknown #343, verses 1 and 6

A reading from Luke 15 - the story of the Prodigal son

¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

Reflection: For 40 days in Lent, we track Jesus' movement towards Jerusalem, toward people who plot against him, toward a sacrifice that we do not yet understand. What kind of King forgives the unfaithful and offers his all for the unworthy? How can we serve a king who is himself a servant?

THE PASSION AND THE THREE DAYS: The king at table in the humble Lord's supper; The king crucified; The king silenced by the grave

HYMN: O Sacred Head Now Wounded #351, verse 1

A reading from Psalm 22:1-5

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁴ In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. ⁵ To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

HYMN: Were You There #353, verse 1

Reflection: The king is abandoned, agonized, silenced. His kingdom is claimed by powers that want to keep things just as they are - marred by sin and injustice. What failure can be more complete for a king than to lose his followers, be humiliated, and conquered?

Silence

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation. *Brief silence.*

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

P: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior
Amen.

EASTER

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 24th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.’

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

HYMN: Now all the Vault of Heaven Resounds #367 verse 1 & 3

Reflection: King of Kings and Lord of Lords: death has no authority over the Lord of Life. Christ is freed to eternal life and gives that gift freely to all creation. Kings may pardon, but Christ forgives; kings may defeat armies, but Christ conquers death. Our king is eternal, abides with us, and unites us with all of God's people, past, present, and future.

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 *Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor* arr. by Parker Ramsay

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in me a Clean Heart* WOV page 732

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. Amen.

Please be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION**GREAT THANKSGIVING****EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (PASTOR)**

(From the 24th Chapter of Luke.)

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Lord, make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread.

For we remember, "Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took the bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, 'Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.' In the same way he also took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the New Testament in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

white booklet page 4

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

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation and in the kingdom of God.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

white booklet page 4

COMMUNION HYMNS

Beautiful Savior

ELW #838

Christ Is The King

ELW #662

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.

BLESSING

Sons and Daughters of the King: may you go out under the banner of the Christ who conquered death. May you go out bearing the name of the Christ who has the power to give life eternal. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, for Christ is King!

ELW #430

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

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

by Ronald Arnatt

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:

Reader: Meg La Spina

Additional Readers: Jim Ehrhardt, Shirley Blankenship, Stephen Gring,
and Mary Ann Gring



The flowers sponsors this week are: Ruth & Charles Bowden, to the glory of God and in memory of departed loved ones.

WELCA is collecting hats, gloves, and mittens during the month of December for children in need. There will be a basket in the narthex for these donations.

Food Pantry donation for the month of December is:
Paper Towels and Kleenex/Tissues

COOKIE WALK HELPERS NEEDED

We are in need of bakers for our 17th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk! If you are willing and able to bake for this, please sign up in the narthex before or after church so we know what we can expect. We need an exorbitant amount of cookies, as **it usually sells out within the first hour!**

If you have any gently used Christmas decorations or kitchenware you no longer need or want, we can use them for our white elephant table at the Cookie Walk.

Helpers are needed the day before the Cookie Walk to receive and organize trays of cookies and baked goods. Helpers are also needed the day of the event. If you or anyone you know would be interested in a vendor table, please let us know. Only \$25 per table!

If you have any questions or wish to reserve a vendor table, please contact Heidi Toth 609-233-4156 or Sandy Piskun 609-226-5591.

100th Anniversary Gala

December 15 at 12:30 PM-3:30 PM
Atlantic City Country Club
Reservations are now closed.

Holiday Messenger

The Messenger for December is out. Look for your copy in your email, in the Church narthex, or in your mailbox!

The season of Advent begins next Sunday, December 1!



Cape Shore Chorale

and director of music

Scott J. Breiner

present

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Sunday, December 8, 2024 @ 3 P M

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

30th & Bay Avenue

Ocean City, N. J.

Lite refreshments

Free will offering



17th Annual Christmas



Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 14th

9:00 am until sold out!



**Also
Gently used
Christmas Decorations**



**cookies
\$10.00
per pound**

**FRESH
SCONES**

Decadent Hot Cocoa

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

November 24, 2024—December 1, 2024

Christ the King Sunday 11/24/24

- 8:00AM Spoken Worship
- 8:45AM Adult Forum
- 10:15AM Traditional Worship
- 12:00PM Grief Support Potluck**
- 4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 11/25/24

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

TUESDAY 11/26/24

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

WEDNESDAY 11/27/24

Food Pantry Closed

- 11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
- 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 11/28/24

Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

- 9:00AM Alcoholics Anonymous
- Gratitude Celebration

FRIDAY 11/29/24

Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

SATURDAY 11/30/24

No events.

1st Sunday in Advent 12/01/24

- 8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
- 8:45AM Adult Forum Group
- 10:15AM Traditional Worship
- Baptism of Jackson Horrox**
- 4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous



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