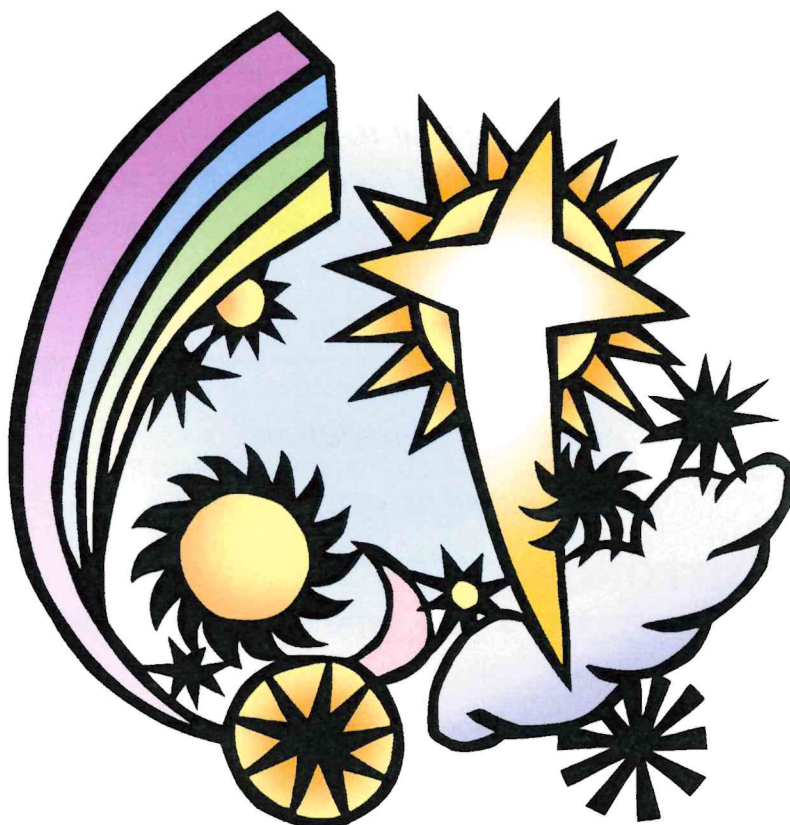


November 16, 2025 23rd Sunday After Pentecost



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

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

Website: www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

E-mail: office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

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

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

INTRODUCTION

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Variations on "Foundation"

by Gilbert M. Martin

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from You. We are stuck in sin that oppresses and we do not embrace the freedom given in your faithful promises. Forgive us, Lord. Repair our relationships, restore all that is broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, + in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

How Firm A Foundation

ELW #796

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

(front pages of hymnal) ELW S156

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW S159

PRAYER OF THE DAY

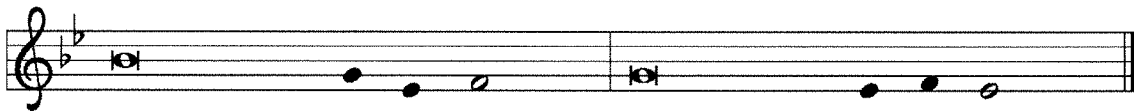
O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Please be seated.

PSALM 98



- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.
- ² **O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,**
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of
Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.
- ⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;**
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing.
- ⁵ Sing to the LORD ¹ with the harp,
with the harp and the ¹ voice of song.
- ⁶ **With trumpets and the sound ¹ of the horn**
shout with joy before the ¹ king, the LORD.
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and ¹ all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.
- ⁸ **Let the rivers ¹ clap their hands,**
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to ¹
judge the earth.
- ⁹ The LORD will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peo- ¹ ples with equity.

READING: Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” warns that “the day is coming.” On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the “sun of righteousness” will shine on those who honor God.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Living Word speaks to us.

C: Allelujah!

P: Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: You have the words of eternal life. Allelujah!

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

As we approach the end of this church year, we approach culminating chapters of Luke’s gospel. As history moves toward God’s fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The

time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Please be seated.

OFFERING**OFFERTORY***Sing a New Song*

by Roland E. Martin

*Sing a new song to the Lord. Wonders He has done.**His right hand and holy arm victory have won.**The Lord makes known His triumph, His righteousness is shown;**In the sight of all the nations His glory shall be known.**Please stand as you are able.***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

ELW #693 verse 2

OFFERING PRAYER

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Hear us, O God," please respond with "Your mercy is great."

P: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION (Setting Five)**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW S161

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW S162

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

ELW S163

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* **ELW S164**

COMMUNION HYMN *Canticle Of The Turning* **ELW #723**

Verses 1 & 4 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 3 MEN

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 container on your way to return to your pew. 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.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you + and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *I Love To Tell The Story* **ELW #661**

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

Please join us for Coffee Hour following worship!

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in C Major

by David N. Johnson

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
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: Meg La Spina



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

The flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal,
 thanking God for my granddaughter, Rebecca, on her 17th
 birthday!

The candles and wine sponsor is: H. Ray Hunsicker, in honor of Scott
 Breiner's birthday and his music ministry at Grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Grace Stitchers thank all who donated items to the Seaman's Institute for the men and women at sea this holiday season! Your generous donations were very much appreciated!

The Food Pantry has been receiving record numbers of people in need of food. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

COOKIE WALK HELPERS NEEDED

We are in need of bakers for our 18th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk on December 13! 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 cookies galore, as it usually sells out within the first hour!

Last year the White Elephant table nearly sold out, so we are greatly in need of an inventory replenishment. If you have any gently used Christmas decorations or kitchenware you no longer need or want, we can definitely use them!

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!

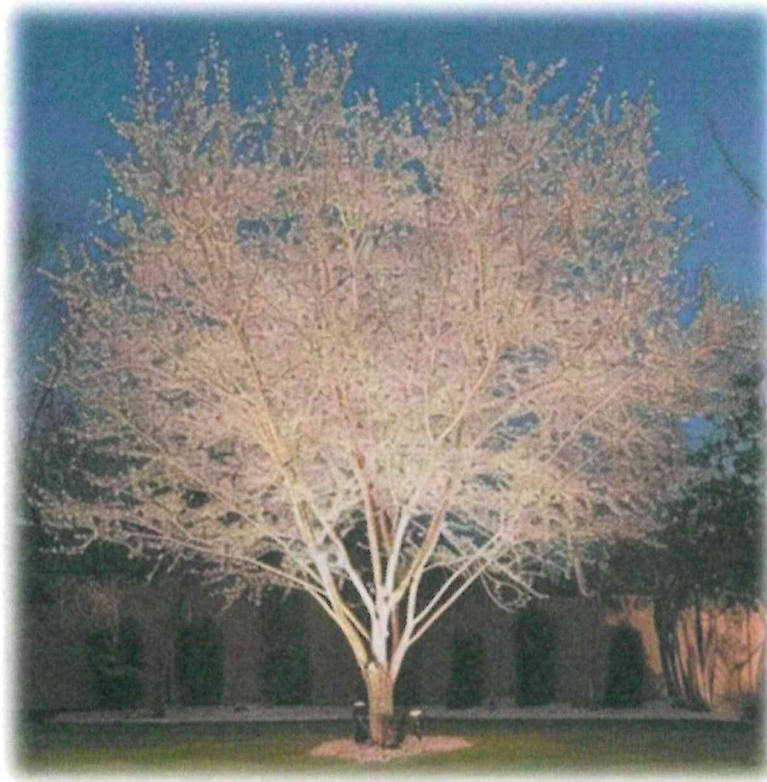
If you have any questions or wish to reserve a vendor table, please contact Heidi Toth 609-233-4156 or Sandy Piskun 609-226-5591.



WELCA is asking for donations of children's hats, gloves, and mittens, to be collected throughout the months of November and December. These items will then be donated in January to an elementary school for children who are in need or who lose them this winter.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & CAROLING



Thursday, December 11 4:00-5:30 PM

4:00-5:00 PM: Meet in the Fellowship Hall to make ornaments and enjoy hot cocoa and cider.

5:00-5:30 PM: Christmas Tree Lighting outside with caroling.

CAPE SHORE CHORALE

and Director of Music

Scott J. Breiner

present

CHRISTMASS

guest conductor Jason Koenig

Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 3 P M

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

30th & Bay Avenue

Ocean City, N. J.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, and the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners through the Division of Culture & Heritage



HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

November 16, 2025–November 23, 2025

23rd Sunday of Pentecost 11/16/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
Coffee Hour

MONDAY 11/17/25

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

TUESDAY 11/18/25

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

WEDNESDAY 11/19/25

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

THURSDAY 11/20/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 AA 12-Step
 7:00PM Al-Anon

7:00PM Church Council Meeting

FRIDAY 11/21/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
 7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 11/22/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

Christ the King Sunday 11/23/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 10:15AM Traditional Worship

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
This week:
Mon-Thurs 10:00-3:00

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