

November 30, 2025

1st Sunday of Advent



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: *Bible Focus for Advent and 2026!*

Each Sunday we are blessed to read, hear, and ponder a reading from one of the Gospels. For most of 2025, our readings were from the Gospel of Luke. Now, we turn to the Gospel according to Matthew. You'll be able to appreciate the readings and the sermon more if you have a sense of context - so throughout the year, Pastor will provide quick overviews that will help you connect more with God's Word for your life.

*Matthew was written to early Christians who were mostly Jewish but in a Church that was increasingly of non-Jewish (Gentile) backgrounds. Jewish Christians were seeped in the promises given through Moses and the Exodus from slavery in Egypt. They would recognize when Jesus was quoting their Scripture (we Gentiles call it the "Old Testament" but it's very much active and alive). God's Law, like the 10 Commandments, is not discarded by Jesus - rather he is the **fulfillment** of the Law, the history, the prophets, and the promises that the Jewish Christians loved.*

*But both Jews and Gentiles were welcomed into the new promises given through Christ, and so Matthew's Gospel, written around 85 AD or 50 years after the crucifixion, was also a gift to teach new believers how to worship and live. From chapter 1:23 to the end of chapter 28:20 (Matthew's whole Gospel!), we will hear how **in every age** Jesus brings new vision and hope for us as we share in mission and as we grow every deeper in relationship with Jesus, "God With Us," Emmanuel.*

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

by Malcom Archer

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God, we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We become weary and impatient. Teach us to love you and to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust that we may abound in hope. **Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace. May you be ready to welcome the Savior - just as the Savior welcomes you. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding* **ELW #246**
Verses 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 WOMEN

GREETING

The advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, the presence of God, and unity in 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

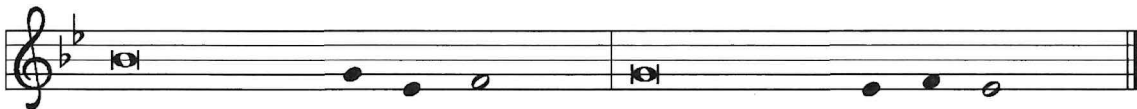
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Please be seated.

PSALM 122



¹ I was glad when they ¹ said to me,
"Let us go to the house ¹ of the LORD."

- ² **Now our¹ feet are standing
within your gates,¹ O Jerusalem.**
- ³ Jerusalem is built¹ as a city
that is at unity¹ with itself;
- ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes¹ of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name¹ of the LORD.**
- ⁵ For there are the¹ thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the¹ house of David.
- ⁶ **Pray for the peace¹ of Jerusalem:
“May they pros-¹per who love you.**
- ⁷ Peace be with-¹ in your walls
and quietness with-¹ in your towers.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred¹ and companions,
I pray for¹ your prosperity.**
- ⁹ Because of the house of the¹ LORD our God,
I will seek to¹ do you good.”

READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”

- ¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- ² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD’s house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
- ³ Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
- For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
 they shall beat their swords into plowshares
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
 neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the LORD!

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 Matthew the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives and the world's assumption about what is everlasting. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and

one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in the coming of the Light that shatters all darkness and brings love to all people. We believe in peace, and that one day all nations shall enter the house of God, where love and mercy flow like a mighty river.

We believe in a hope that casts out fear. We believe in waiting patiently for the coming of the Lord, knowing it is Christ who restores us and leads us to salvation. We believe in being ready, for Christ comes at unexpected times and places, in the form of strangers, friends, and family. We believe that we are called to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us.

We believe that the Holy Spirit helps us live in harmony with one another, and we prepare our hearts and our lives for the birth of a Child who is called “Prince of Peace,” “Emmanuel,” “God with us.” Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Veni, Emmanuel

by Marilyn Biery

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257 verse 1

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, **you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: We come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. *Brief silence.*

A: Grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to care for your people. Grant steadfastness and encouragement in all trials. We lift our prayer requests now, aloud or in our hearts: *(pause)*

Lord, hear our prayer, **“And in Your merciful love, answer.”**

A: Grant us counsel and strength to care for the natural world. We pray for creation: *(pause)*

Lord, hear our prayer, **“And in Your merciful love, answer.”**

A: Grant us righteousness and faithfulness in communities of all sizes. We pray for peoples near and far: *(pause)*

Lord, hear our prayer, **“And in Your merciful love, answer.”**

A: Grant us good hospitality and a spirit of reconciliation. We pray for those who are isolated or divided: *(pause)*

Lord, hear our prayer, **“And in Your merciful love, answer.”**

A: Grant us joy and peace as we remember our ancestors in the faith. We especially thank you for the dearly departed who have shaped our lives:

(pause)

Lord, hear our prayer, **“And in Your merciful love, answer.”**

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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

Here is life. God is with us! Come, receive what God has promised.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW S164

COMMUNION HYMN

The King Shall Come

ELW #260

Verses 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 WOMEN

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.

BENEDICTION

May God Emmanuel, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace even in darkness, and good news to share: today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW #244

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

POSTLUDE *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* by Paul Manz

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: Mary Ann Gring

**The flowers sponsor this week is: Carol Dotts, in loving memory of
Jon J. Mindurski.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 on one of the sign-up sheets posted around the church.



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 & CAROLS **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 and carols with the choir.

CAPE SHORE CHORALE

and Director of Music

Scott J. Breiner

present

CHRIST **MASS**

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 30, 2025–December 7, 2025

1st Sunday of Advent 11/30/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
 Gospel-Matthew 24:36-44

MONDAY 12/1/25

6:30PM Grief Support Group
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 12/2/25

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 12/3/25

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

THURSDAY 12/4/25

2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 AA 12-Step
 7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 12/5/25

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

SATURDAY 12/6/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

2nd Sunday of Advent 12/7/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
 Gospel-Matthew 3:1-12

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00