November 8, 2026 24th Sunday of 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

Email: office@gracelutehranspnj.org

Reverend ✞ Elizabeth Frey, Pastor, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Note that all text written in bold is for congregation participation. Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship red hymnal found in the pews.
S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.

GATHERING

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

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

WELCOME Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE *Lobt Gott, Ihr Christian, Allzugleich* by Dietrich Buxtehude
[Praise God, You Christians, All Together]

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Come, we that Love the Lord* ELW625

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 ELW *S*138

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is the Feast* ELW *S*140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

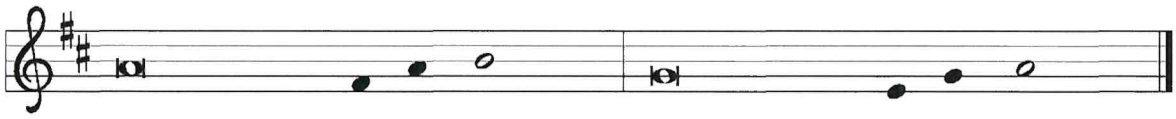
18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM 70



1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

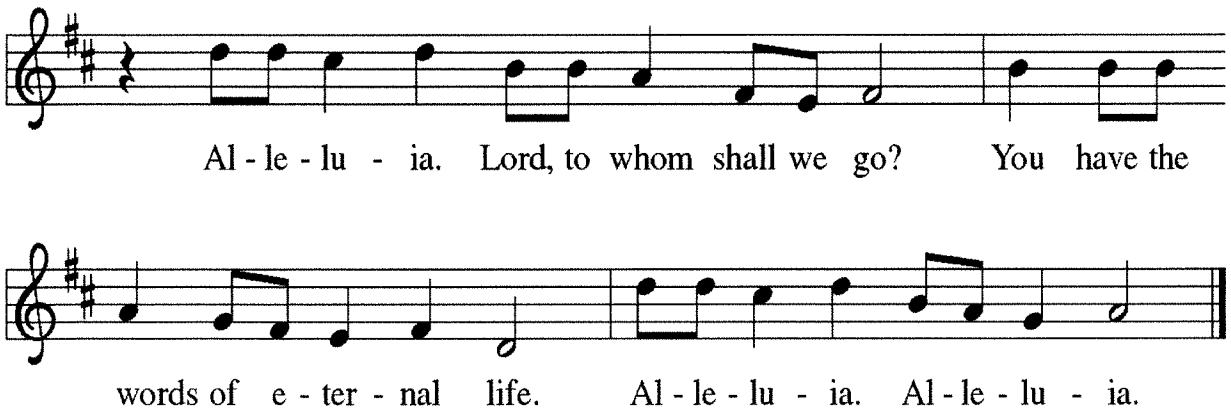
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and
sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as
others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus
died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with
him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the
word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the
coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have
died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the
archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will
descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then
we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds
together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be
with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with
these words.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven
will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to
meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were
wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with
them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the
bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young
women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the
wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and
for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for
yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom
came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding
banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women
came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied,
'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for
you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON Rev. Elizabeth Frey

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand* ELW #441

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

When the pastor or worship assistant says, "God, in your mercy," please respond with, **"Hear our prayer."**

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme* by J. S. Bach
[Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling]

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart O God* WOV #732

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING ELW *S*144

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW *S*144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. 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 via the side aisles. 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 and cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, **we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Soon and Very Soon* ELW #439

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

POSTLUDE *Sleepers, Wake* by Miles Martin

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Encourage one another.
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: Shirley Blankenship

The flowers, candles, wine, bulletins, music, and messenger sponsor this week is: Linda Savage, in memory of family veterans who bravely fought:

Craig Savage-Vietnam; Herbert Morrow-WWII; Patricia Morrow-Women's British Land Army; William Little-WWI & II; William Little, Jr.-WWII; Bruce Gibson-Navigator/Wing Commander WWII; John Morrow-The Civil War; Adam & George Grow-The Revolutionary War

Please keep an eye out for an important letter coming in the mail regarding an informational meeting about church security.

Seaman's Institute-Christmas at Sea
Please bring your donations by November 12.

CAPE SHORE CHORALE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AT GRACE
Back by popular demand, Charlie Zahm, Celtic Entertainer!
www.charliezahm.com
Saturday, November 14 from 6:00-9:00 PM
Before and after the concert, there will be beverages, appetizers, and desserts that are included in the $50 ticket price.
for more information and to reserve,
contact Claire Theis @ (609) 214-5323
or clairetheis@hotmail.com
As we begin the month of November, please remember to put 11 dimes in your WELCA red stocking!

2027 Giving Envelopes are on the table in the narthex alphabetically by last name. Please be sure to take yours. If you do not have giving envelopes and would like to have them, please call or email the church office so we can assign you a number and give you a pack.

Food Pantry Announcements:

The Food Pantry is in need of turkeys to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for families in need this holiday season. Your donations are very greatly appreciated!

The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to help receive food and stock shelves from St. Joe's Catholic Church Food Drive on **Saturday, November 14 starting at 10:00 AM**.



Mark your calendars for Cookies, Crafts, & Christmas Cheer: An All-Ages Christmas Celebration!

Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK
November 8, 2026-November 15, 2026

24th Sunday of Pentecost 11/8/26
8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 11/9/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 11/10/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 11/11/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 11/12/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
9:30AM Bible Study
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
5:30PM AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon
7:00PM Antique Collector's Club

FRIDAY 11/13/26
10:30AM Grace Stitchers-
Collection for Seaman's Institute
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 11/14/26
7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers
10:00 AM St. Joe's Food Drive Drop-Off
6:00PM-9:00PM Cape Shore Chorale Fundraiser

25th Sunday of Pentecost 11/15/26
8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

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

Office Hours This Week:
Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00
Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00