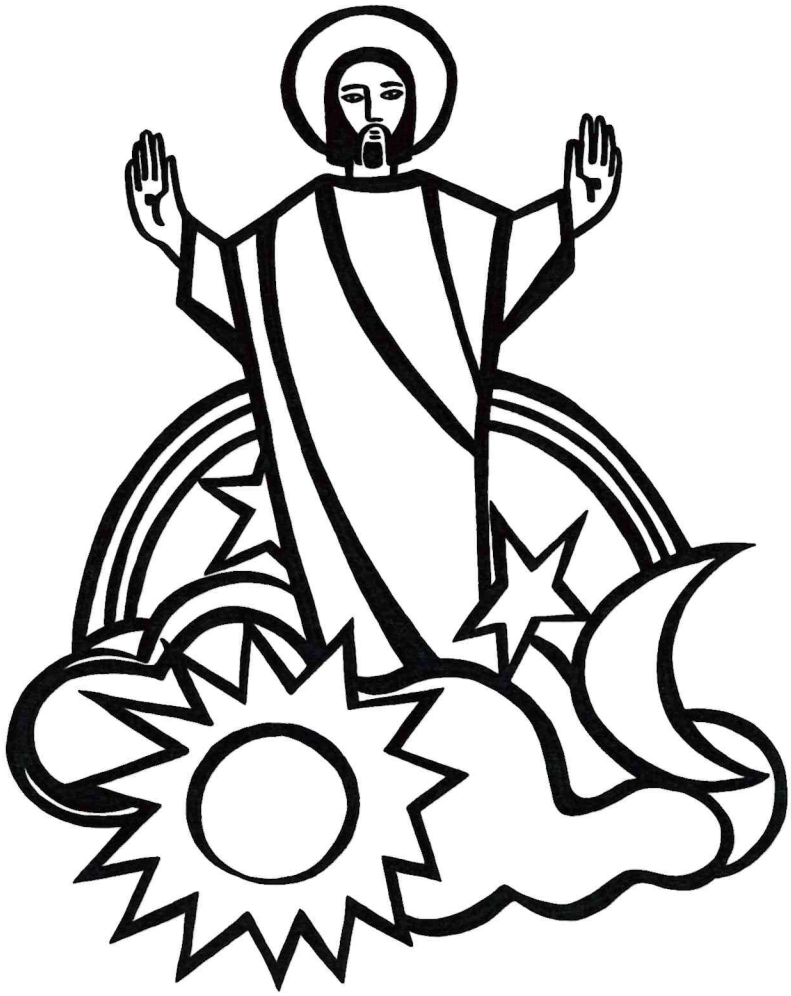
November 29, 2026 **1st Sunday of Advent**



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

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.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!

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

WELCOME Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE *I. Introduction - Choral*
II. Menuet Gothique
from Léon Boëllmann's "Suite Gothique"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah Verse 1 ELW #240

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God, **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away.**

Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

In the name of ✝ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *The King Shall Come* ELW #260
Verse 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN

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 WOV p.12-13

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God* WOV p.14

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON *Away in a Manger* ELW #277 Verse 1

CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

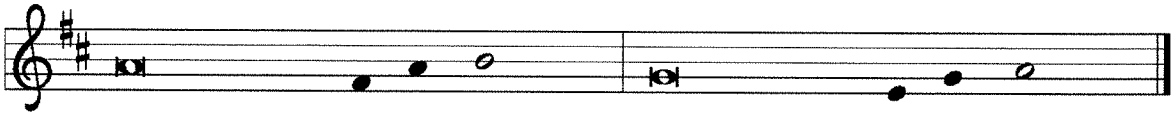
This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

[1] O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
[2] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
[3] When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4] From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
[5] You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
[6] We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7] There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
[8] Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 **O LORD | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 **Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through

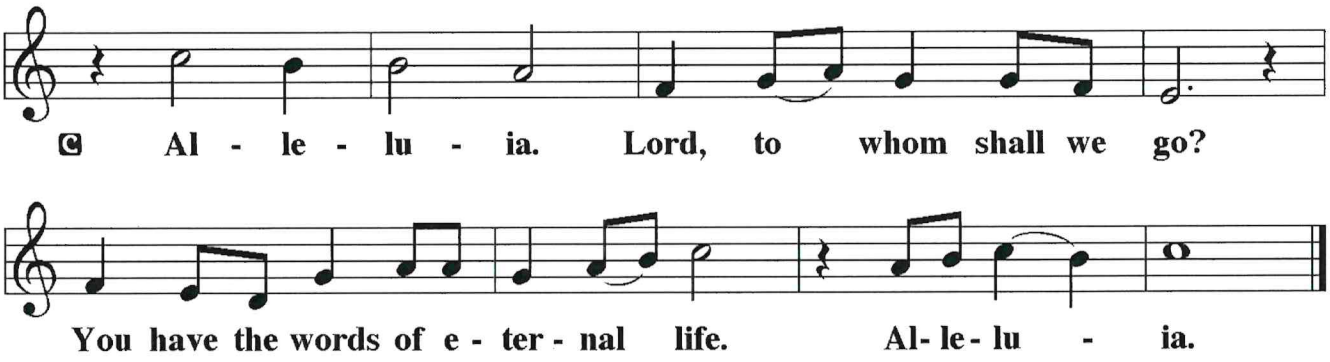
spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.
[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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 *Awake, And Greet the New Morn* ELW #242

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

P: We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *My Lord, What a Mornin'* American Spiritual

Please stand as you are able.

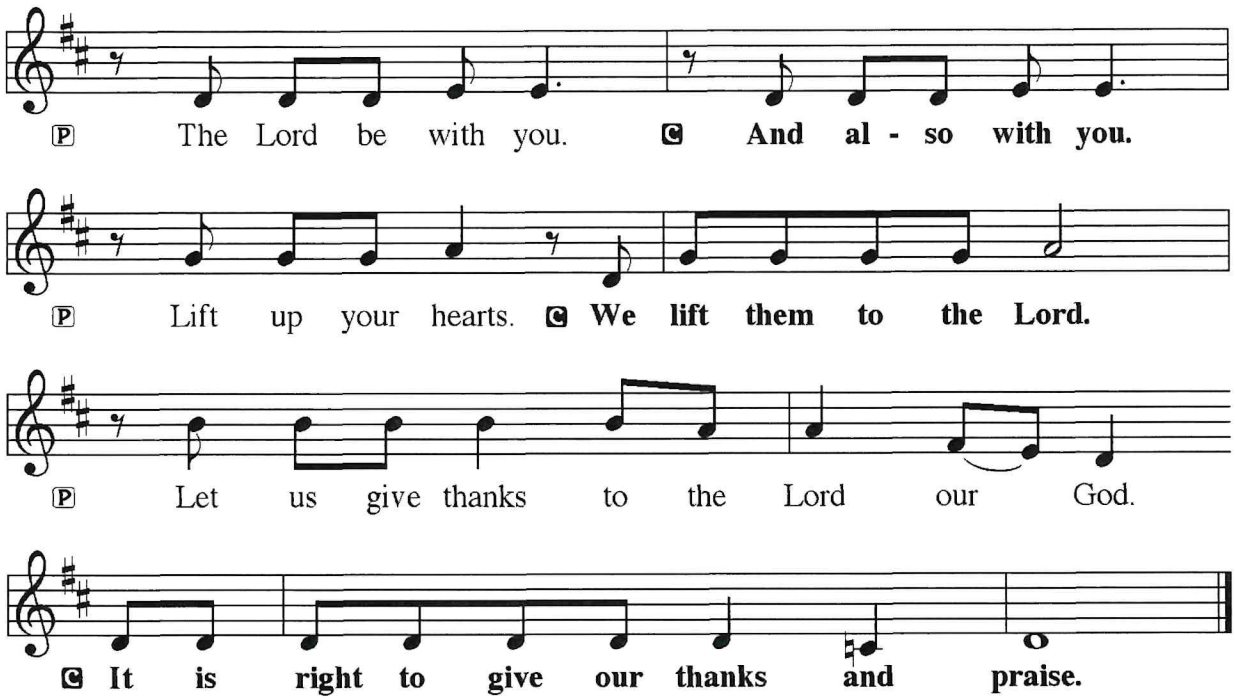
OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful* WOV p. 21

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy Creator, **we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 ever-living 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

WOV p. 22

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your

chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

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

The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.

Please be seated.

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.

MUSIC *Prière À Notre Dame* from Suite Gothique

Please stands as you are able.

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Providing God, **you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Please be seated.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever. **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 *Toccata* from Suite Gothique

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Bring good news to all people.
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: Ingeborg Carlson, in memory of loved ones.

FOOD PANTRY: 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!

FELLOWSHIP: The sign-up sheets for providing snacks for fellowship are in the narthex. We will have fellowship next Sunday, December 6 following 10:15 worship. We will continue having Fellowship following 10:15 worship on the first Sunday of each month. WELCA will handle set up and clean up for each one. We will need volunteers to provide snacks each month.

WELCA

Please remember to put 12 dimes in your red stocking and turn them in to the offering plate on Sunday or to the office. Please have them turned in by the end of December.

WELCA is collecting hats, earmuffs, gloves, & mittens to give to a local elementary school this winter. Please place your donations in the basket in the narthex.

Cape Shore Chorale Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 PM:
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Bay Avenue in Ocean City



Mark your calendars for Cookies, Crafts & Christmas Cheer: An All-Ages Christmas Celebration!
Please bring 2 dozen cookies to share.

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

Sunday, December 13:
10:15 AM - 3rd Sunday of Advent - Lessons & Carols
(*No 8:00 AM Worship*)
Informational Meeting on Building Security
Following Worship

Monday, December 21:
Blue Christmas Service 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Worship:
Children & Family Service - 4:00 PM
Candlelight Service with Choir - 6:00 PM
Communion will be served at both Christmas Eve Services.
The 6:00 PM service will be livestreamed.

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COOKIES,
CRAFTS &
CHRISTMAS CHEER
AN ALL-AGES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
11 E. DAWES AVE. SOMERS POINT, NJ
DECEMBER 12, 2026
10AM-NOON
Bring 2 dozen of cookies or treats to share.
Enjoy crafts for kids through adults.
White Elephant Table with Christmas Items for purchase.
Hot Chocolate and Coffee Bar.
A celebration of Christmas for the whole family!

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK
November 29, 2026-December 6, 2026

1st Sunday of Advent 11/29/26
8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

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

TUESDAY 12/1/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 12/2/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 12/3/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
9:30AM Bible Study
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir
5:30PM AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 12/4/26
10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 12/5/26
7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

2nd Sunday of Advent 12/6/26
8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Joyful Noise Offering- CASA
Fellowship following 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-Wed 10:00-3:00
Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00