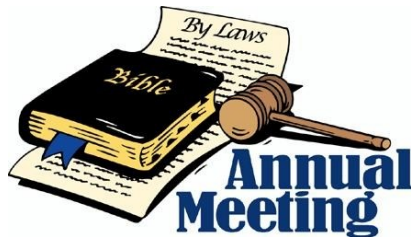


Events This Week - February 28 - March 7, 2021

Pastor Althea's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10am - 1pm

<p>Sunday 2/28 10:15 am - On-Line Worship Only</p> <p>Monday 3/1 Food Pantry CLOSED 7:00 pm - AA Meeting - Social Hall</p> <p>Tuesday 3/2 Food Pantry CLOSED 6:30 pm - NA Online Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 3/3 Food Pantry CLOSED 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall</p>	<p>Thursday 3/4</p> <p>Friday 3/5 10:30 am - Grace Stitches</p> <p>Saturday 3/6</p> <p>Sunday 3/7 ANNUAL MEETING 10:15 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary, Live on YouTube, and FaceBook 11:30 am Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary and, if needed, Zoom Meeting</p>
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Sunday, March 7, 2021
Following worship in
the Sanctuary.

Grace Place Pantry will receive
\$1.00 for every bag sold.

during the month of February 2021



**BUY THIS
BAG, SEND A
\$1 DONATION
TO US.**

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY &
SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT.



Prayer Requests
All joys, concerns, and
prayer requests, to share on our video
recording, must be in by Wednesday
of each week while we are apart.

Pastor Althea

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021



Grace Lutheran Church

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Office: 609-927-3082 † Fax: 609-927-6672 † Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Alternate web address: www.gracelutheran.xyz
Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright
Music Director: Scott J. Breiner
Church Secretary: Diana McArdle
Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

Liturgical Worship Service

Welcome

Welcome to worship at Grace Lutheran Church. Everything you need to fully participate in our liturgical worship is contained in the bulletin.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to **belong** to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who **believe** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to **become** caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today—

Worship Assistant: Shirley Blankenship

Altar Guild:

Brenda Traa, Ruth Traa

Sound Technician:

Jim Foreman /Larry Rusiecki

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Servicemen and Servicewomen Serving Our Country: Members & Friends of Grace: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USMC; Sara Myers, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF

Hospitalized - or in need of healing: Ruth, David, & Ric Alburger, Mary Ellen Bartholomew, June Becker, Shirley Blankenship, Carol Campbell, Dr. Robert Carlson, Ed Carpenter, Christine Carter, Peg Cwienk, Roy Cole, Deb Connelly, Emile DeLong, Tad Dildilian, Jim Foreman, Kimberly Frawley, Ed Gannon, Jeanne Gehring, Chris Hinnant, Bob & Dona-Lee Hughes, Pat Johnson, Darryl Kashey, Terry Kearney, Carol Traa Keates, Nancy Keirse, Jim Kohl, Darrell Kopp, Ruth Kruger, Judith & Roger Landis, Bob Loper, Susan Marich, Quinn Meldrum, Anne Moore, Tom Ostrander, Tommy Parker, Renee Pugliese, LouAnn Rest, Indigo Rose, Alan Sisson, Dana Sisson, Judy Toth, Bob Traa, Grace DiGenni Traa, Carol-Ann Tracy, Skip Uhrmann, George Walters, Joann Wehrhan, Joan Wisdom, & Lucy Dildilian Yannis

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Dot Crawshaw, Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Rehab@Shores of Wesley Manor: Lois Rahme

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.

Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,

On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



Gathering

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross by H. Alexander Matthews

Please stand as you are able.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

As we come before God this Lent, let us pray together.

Almighty God, you know us from before we are born. You are always with us in our past, present, and future. You know our joys and our flaws. You know our outward successes and our innermost failings.

We come before you now wanting to spend time with you and worship you.

Forgive us when we stray in our relationship with you.

Bring us closer to your Spirit once again. **Amen.**

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

God of mercy,

We confess that we have not always stayed close to you, God.

We do not always trust in your path for our lives.

We do not always follow your call for us.

We let worry and fear consume us.

We do not always treat our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may return to you again and glorify your holy name in all that we say and do. Amen.

God is merciful and just. Christ was crucified and died for us and for all our sins.

As a minister of the church of Christ, I declare to you that God forgives all of your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

God never leaves us or forsakes us.

Return to the Lord your God with a new spirit, ready to accept God's gift of grace. **Amen**

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

***SENDING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Lord God, we are living in difficult times. As we have worshipped with you this day, you have refreshed us with your Word and given us new hope. Send us into the next week as witnesses of your Gospel message, that we may be light for the world, as we continue through this season of Lent. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

May the Almighty God bless you and keep you.
 May Christ's mercy and forgiveness remind you to go and sin no more.
 May the Spirit guide you and keep you safe from evil in the world.
 And finally, may God's love bring you comfort and † give you hope. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus
 Music on the next page.

ELW # 802

POSTLUDE

Let Us Walk with Jesus

by George G. Boltze

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in the humbleness of the Lenten season and serve God with kindness!

Thanks be to God!

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Let us pray. All-Knowing God,

You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we are able to give back some of our blessings to you. You have changed our lives forever with your mercy and grace. Give us opportunities to change the lives of others with your Gospel message. Bless our congregation, this community, and everything we give back to you to continue your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

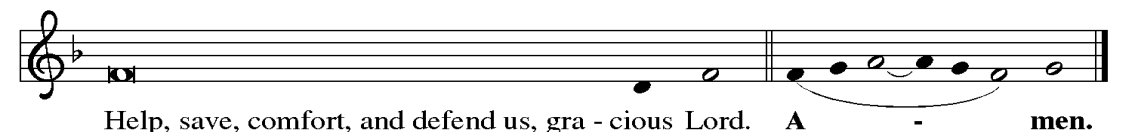
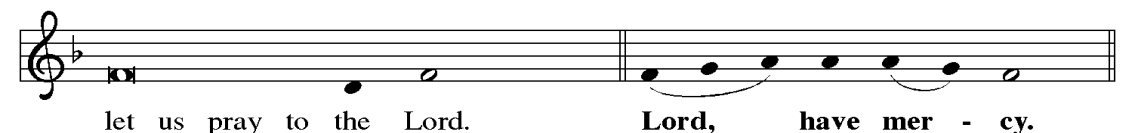
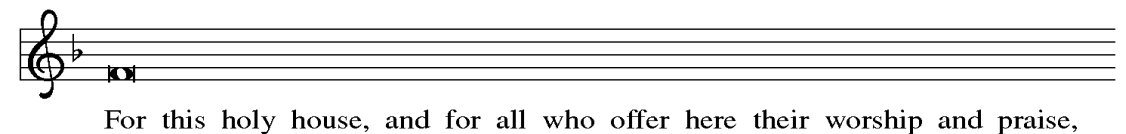
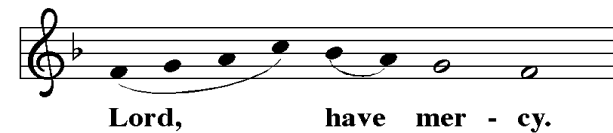
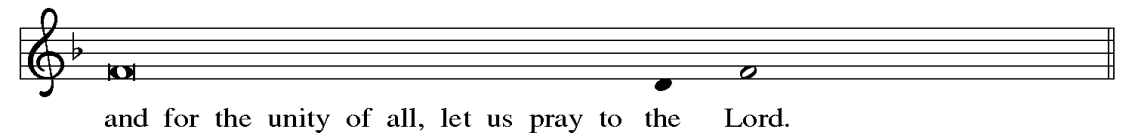
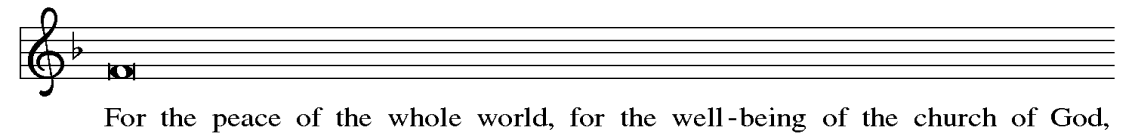
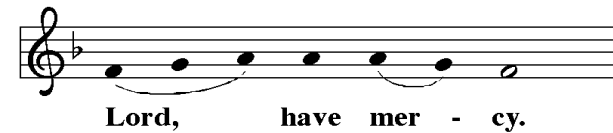
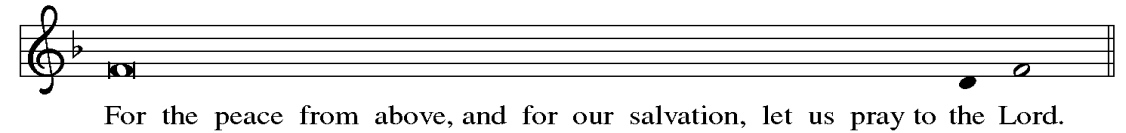
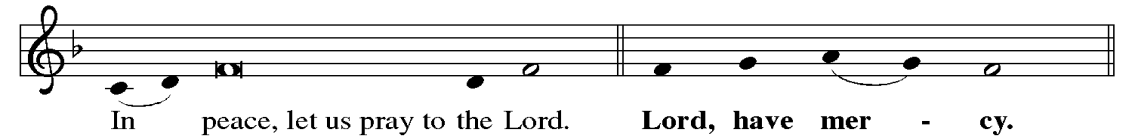
Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*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



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.... **O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

*APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the
joy of your sal - va-tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31 (Spoken)

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off-spring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
 May your hearts live forever!

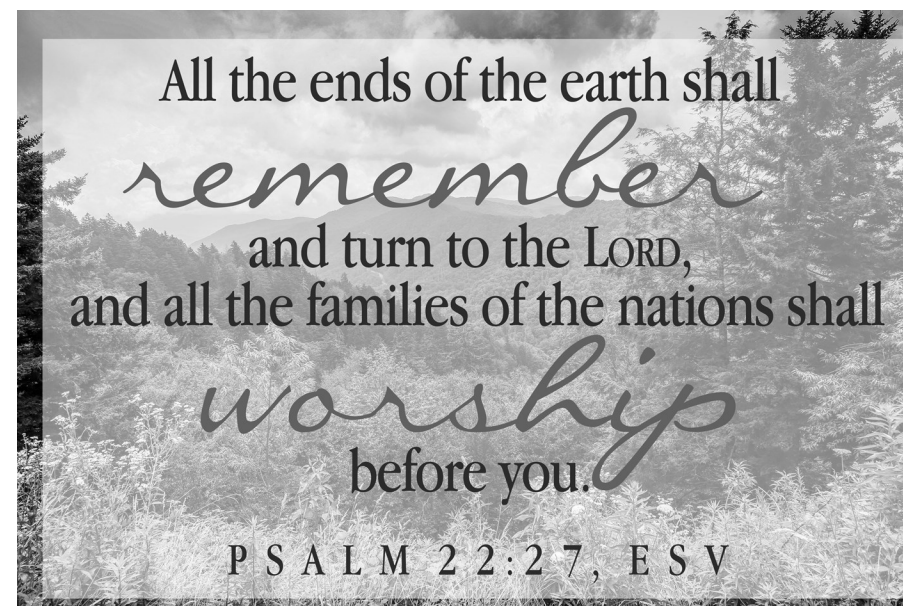
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
 all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
 all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
 whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them,
 "The LORD has acted!"



SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

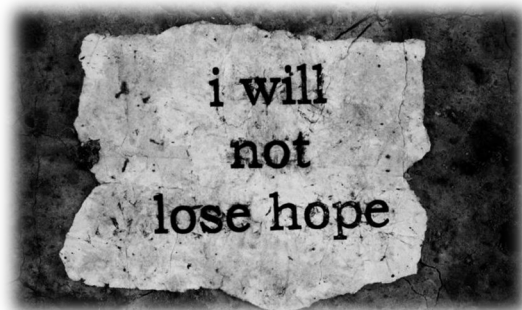
Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

Please stand as you are able.



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The holy gospel according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Please be seated

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright