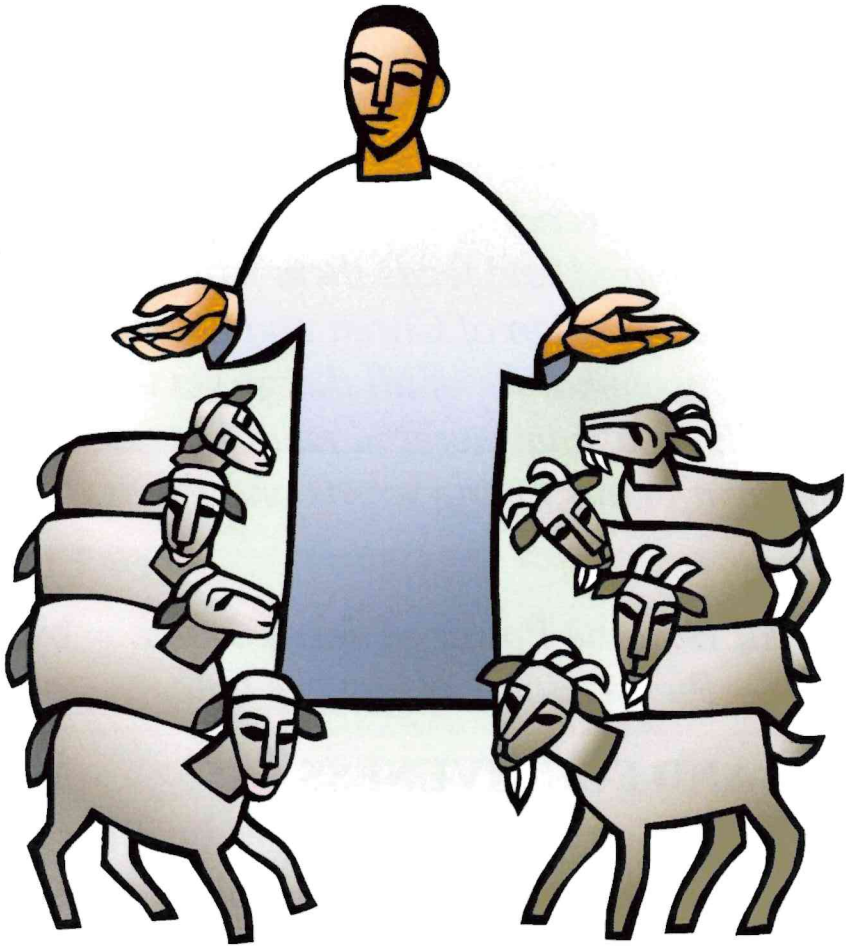
November 22, 2026 **Christ the King**



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!

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

WELCOME Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* by Tim Fields

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 *O Worship the King* CH #104

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

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 power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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
CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my
sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks
when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep.
I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been
scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring
them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and

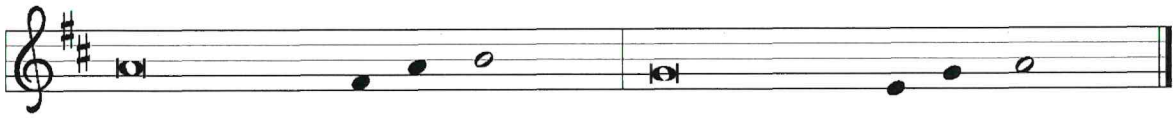
bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. [14] I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. [15] I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. [16] I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

[20] Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. [21] Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, [22] I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

[23] I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. [24] And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

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

PSALM 95:1-7a



[1] Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
[2] **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**
[3] For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

4 **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours.
5 The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.
7a For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

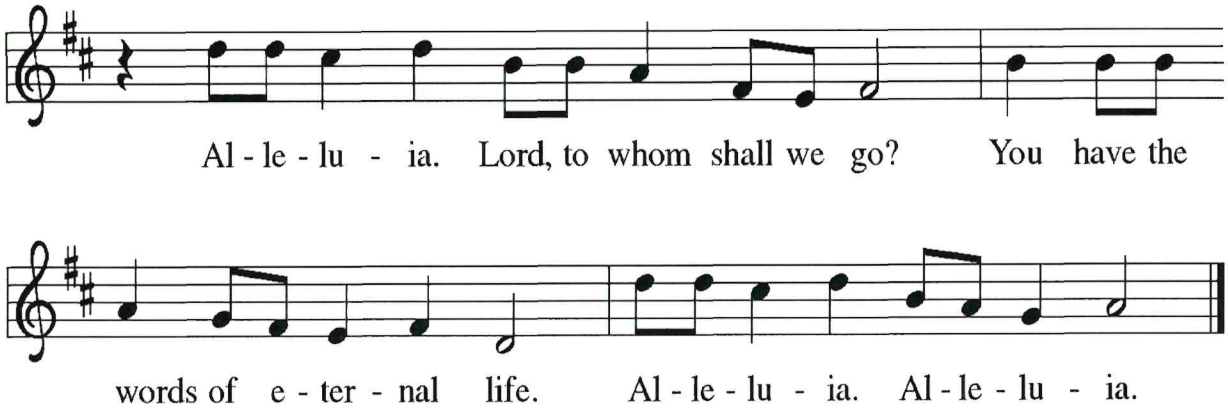
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love
toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give
thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of
our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of
wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with
the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the
hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his
glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the
immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,
according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power
to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated
him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule
and authority and power and dominion and above every name that
is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And
he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head
over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of
him who fills all in all.

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 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes
in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the
throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at
his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to
those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the
world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and
you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was
sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'
37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we
saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you
something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a
stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?
39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited

you?' [40] And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' [41] Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, [42] for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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 *Crown Him with Many Crowns* CH #45

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, **"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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sheep May Safely Graze*
from The Birthday Cantata (No. 208)
by J. S. Bach, arr. by E. Power Biggs
Stephen Gring: Piano

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.**

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.

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.

Please stands as you are able.

BLESSING & 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.**

Please be seated.

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 *Jesus Shall Reign* CH #375

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

POSTLUDE *Hallelujah Chorus* CH #39
[Congregation, please join the choir.]

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: Ruth Bowden

The flowers sponsor this week is: Linda Savage, with Thanksgiving to God for Mayflower passenger, George Soule, 9GGF of my daughter, Patty, and 10GGF of my grandchildren, Eric, Craig, and Brianna.

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: Please consider signing up to provide a snack for our next Fellowship on December 6. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. 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.

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

WELCA

Please remember to put 12 dimes in your red stocking in the next week or so and you may begin turning them in to the offering plate on Sunday or 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.



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

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HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK
November 22, 2026-November 29, 2026

Christ the King Sunday 11/22/26
8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Deck the Halls & Lunch

MONDAY 11/23/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 11/24/26
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 11/25/26
Food Pantry Closed
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 11/26/26
Office & Food Pantry Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:30PM AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 11/27/26
Office Closed
10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 11/28/26
7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

1st Sunday of Advent 11/29/26
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-Wed 10:00-3:00