

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

November 12, 2023—November 19, 2023

24th SUNDAY of 11/12/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 11/13/23

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 11/14/23

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

12:00PM WELCA (lounge)

12:30PM 100th Anniversary

Committee Meeting (fellowship hall)

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 11/15/23

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 11/16/23

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

7:00PM Antique Club

7:00PM AI-Anon

FRIDAY 11/17/23

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 11/18/23

No events

25th SUNDAY of Pentecost

11/19/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service

8:45 AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Joyful Noise Offering

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM

FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

Varies—Pastor Althea is always
available by appointment.

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

November 12, 2023

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

E-mail: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor † Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

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 with us as we worship our Lord together!

Introduction

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

Corinne Rhodes

PRELUDE

Burleigh

by Richard Billingham

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**



CAPE SHORE CHORALE

presents

BELLS OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 3, 2023

@ 3:00 P M

Scott J. Breiner, *artistic director*

Gae Finch, *accompanist*

Guest Musicians

Reid Shriver: tenor

Emily Nicholl & Vera Bojco: violinists

William Shea: bassist

lite refreshments & free will offering

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, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners through the Cape May County Division of Culture & Heritage.



THE GRACE STITCHERS NEED YOUR HELP!

These dedicated knitters and crocheters are working hard to make essential items for the men & women working at sea during Christmas (*Christmas at Sea donation drive*), along with your donations of unperishable items (*ex. granola bars, popcorn & candy*), travel size personal hygiene items, puzzle books, and note pads. Thank you for your generosity!



The deadline for donations is Thursday, November 30th.

If you have questions call **609-927-3082**.

16th Annual Christmas

Cookie Walk

**Saturday, December 9th
9:00 am until sold out!**

Home Made Pies
Crafts & Vendors
Other novelties

**Also
Gently used
Christmas Decorations**

Grace Lutheran Church
11 East Dawes Ave.
Dawes Ave. & Shore Road
Somers Point, NJ 08244
609-432-7069

FRESH SCONES

Decadent Hot Cocoa

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Come, We That Love The Lord* **ELW** #625

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** page 12

HYMN OF PRAISE **WOV** page 14

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

Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.

Please be seated.

~ **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 Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as 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.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even 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.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 70



¹Be pleased, O God, to de-^liver me;
O LORD, make^l haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame^l and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and^l be
disgraced.**

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat^l over me
turn back because^l of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be^l glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great^l is the LORD!”**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick-^lly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD,^l do not tarry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

May Almighty God, † Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, watch over you, guide you, and give you faith for the journey now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

ELW #717

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

POSTLUDE

Haf Trones Lampa Färdig

by Paul Manz

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and 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:
June Jordan, Kevin Thomas, and Corinne Rhodes

The flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of my granddaughter, Rebecca Siteman on her 15th birthday, from Grandmom Roberta Blumenthal, with lots of love!



J: O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from wasteful living, and teach us to be thankful for all we have. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

J: O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

K: O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the underemployed or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

J: O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

J: O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

K: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **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.

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.

¹³We 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. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

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

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

Please be seated.

REFLECTION READING

Corinne Rhodes

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

ELW #244

THE APOSTLES' 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.**

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* Arr. By Evelyn R. Larter

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Let the Vineyards* **WOV** page 21

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.
We bring these gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the
body of your beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

K: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *Brief silence.*

J: O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**