

Grace Lutheran Church

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

10:00 AM

Welcome!



Today in Worship

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

Hymns

Gathering:	#327	Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow
Sermon:	#785	When Peace Like a River
Communion:	#188	Create in Me a Clean Heart
Sending:	#713	O God of Every Nation

Intercessory Prayer – Congregational Response to the Leader's call "**Hear us O God,**" is: "**Your mercy is great.**"

The **special music** today is "Baptized and Set Free" sung by the choir.

Today, Brielle will make public profession of her Christian faith and -- in the eyes of the Church-- will become a fully participating, fully responsible, voting, leading, serving, growing, contributing, praying, forgiven and free, adult member of Grace.

Each Sunday, **Offerings** are collected in a basket at the entrance to the sanctuary. You may also mail your offerings to the church or donate on-line through our website at [Grace Lutheran Church \(online giving\)](#) or scan QR code at the right.



All baptized people of faith are welcome to **Communion**. Receive the wafer and cup with wine or juice and eat. Gluten-free wafers are available. Children and adults who do not receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.

If you are **unable to attend worship in-person**, please contact the pastor to bring you communion at home.

Grace Notes and Announcements: For those who worship with us on Facebook, the scripture readings and announcements are available on our church website at Sharinggrace.org.

Pledges for 2026: Thank you for supporting Grace's mission. If you haven't submitted your pledge, there's still time—these gifts help us plan our 2026 programs and ministries. Your generosity makes our work possible.

Today after Worship

Fellowship: Join us after worship for refreshments and discussion.

Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School will meet after the service.

Advent devotional books are available in the narthex as we prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas.

This Week

Book Discussion, Tuesday, November 18: Join us for a book discussion of Kelly Rimmer's WWII historical novel, "*The Things We Cannot Say*". We haven't set a time or place yet; please tell Pastor Becca your preferences or if you'd like to host.

Student and Instructor Art Exhibition at Harmony Hall Arts Center, Saturday, November 22: *Mary Miller's* art will be featured at the Student and Instructor Art Exhibition at Harmony Hall Arts Center which runs 11/17/25- 1/10/26. Greet our accomplished artist, Mary, at the public reception on **Saturday** from **2-4 pm**.

Upcoming Weeks

Grace Day at the Food Pantry, Saturday, November 29! We're collecting canned soups to donate to the FWFP. Please sign-up if you can **volunteer from 7:30-11 am**.

The Honest Sharing Circle, Sunday, November 30 will meet after worship. We meet once per month to hear each other's challenges and insights into faithfully navigating this era of history.

Handel's Messiah Rehearsals, 11/23, 12/07, 12/17: St. John's Episcopal – Broadcreek invites singers to join them & the Generations Choir in a performance of excerpts from Handel's Messiah. Rehearsals at St. John's will be at 1:30 pm on 11/23 and 12/07 and in the evening on 12/17. The free concert will be held **December 21st at 3:00 pm**. Details to follow.

Mid-week Devotions, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 & 12/23: Our mid-week devotions during Advent will be centered on visits to Roy on Wed. Dec. 3, the food pantry produce hub on Wed. Dec. 10, Blanche on Wed. Dec. 17, and Calvin on Tuesday, Dec 23. Sign up in the narthex.

Plan Ahead

Women's Craft Night/Cookie Mission, Saturday, December 6 – Details to follow.

Winter Congregational Meeting, Dec 7: Stay after the service to nominate and elect three council members for 2026. Grace relies on your financial support, time, and talents. Council service is one option. Contact Alice, Neema, or Shirley for details.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", Sunday, December 7, 3pm at Port Tobacco Playhouse in LaPlata. Contact Alice for further details.

Christmas Party/Game Night, Saturday December 13: Details to follow.

Decorating Grace, Sunday, December 14: Volunteers needed!

Christmas Poinsettias: The Advent/Christmas season will soon be upon us. This year, we will once again be ordering red Christmas Poinsettias. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for yourself or give one as a gift to someone special a sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or contact June Zimmerman to place your order.

On – Going

Prayer Group: The group will meet on **Wednesdays at 10:30 am via Zoom**. Contact the Church office for more information.

Sunday School teachers needed! Please sign up in the narthex to teach our youth for one or more Sundays this fall! A lesson plan and materials will be provided.

The Fort Washington Food Pantry (FWFP) provides food assistance to the community **every Saturday** from **9:00-11:00 am** at **6336 Rosecroft Drive, Fort Washington, MD**. Volunteers are needed to prepare food for distribution on Fridays from 9:00-11:00 am, and Saturdays from 8:00-11:30 AM. Additionally, help is needed with food pickup. Please be sure to check for the most current information, as the schedule may change. Updates can be found on the FWFP Facebook page or by visiting the website at <https://fortwashingtonfoodpantry.net>.

Grace Lutheran Church
10928 Indian Head Highway
Fort Washington, MD 20744
Phone: 301.292.2232

Web: <https://www.sharinggrace.org>
Email: grace.lutheranchurch@verizon.net

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca "Becca" Vargas
Phone: 202.486.2808
E-mail: rebeccastelle@gmail.com

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow #327

- 1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.
- 2 One the light of God's own presence
on the ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.
- 3 One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun.
One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love forevermore.
- 4 Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
onward, with the cross our aid.
Bear its shame, and fight its battle
till we rest beneath its shade.
Soon shall come the great awak'ning;
soon the rending of the tomb!
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
and the end of toil and gloom.

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Psalm 98

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

² The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.

⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls."

When Peace like a River #785

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. ***Refrain***
- 3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ***Refrain***
- 4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. ***Refrain***

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888