

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666

(201) 836-0994

THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR

(201) 403-4341 + pegniederer@gmail.com

CAROL WEBER – CANTOR



NOVEMBER 23, 2021

7:30 PM

At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: “You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.” We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God’s creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

VISIT US AT:

WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

PRELUDE

*Nun danket alle Gott, BWV 657
(Now Thank We All Our God)*

Johann Sebastian Bach



Please stand and face the altar.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: *Come, You Thankful People, Come*

LBW 407



1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield.
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
Gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all your an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Joel 2:21-27

The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when God will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.

A. A reading from Joel chapter 2 beginning with the 21st verse.

²¹Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!

²²Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

A. The Word of God. The Word of Life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

Read Responsively

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Christian fellowship involves sharing with those in need. Here Paul is gathering a collection for the church in Jerusalem from all the Gentile churches he helped found. We can be extravagant in our giving because God is extravagant in providing for our lives.

A. A reading from 2 Corinthians Chapter 9 beginning with the 6th verse.

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”


¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

A. The Word of God. The Word of Life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Sung by ALL*)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor Verse:

God is able to provide you with every blessing | in abundance,* so that by
always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in ev- | 'ry
good work. (2 Cor. 9:8)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.

P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter beginning with the 25th verse.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

An Abundant Life

Pastor Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Praise You, O God*

LBW 421



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers, we bless you;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.

Music: KREMSER, A. Velerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626





NICENE CREED

A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We give thanks for the church in every land. Sustain the faithful with your living word. Inspire radical hospitality toward all who are searching, and call us into a more generous way of living. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the earth. Bring forth plentiful harvests and renew our commitment to share abundantly. Preserve the lands and waters that bring nourishment (*local water sources may be named*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for leaders in our communities. Kindle a passion for justice and peace in every national and local elected official. Curb selfish impulses and guide us toward collaborative solutions. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who provide for others. Sustain caregivers, social workers, and volunteers in their efforts. Provide homes, food, employment, medical care, and comfort to all who need prayers, especially...(*pause while names are said*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayers.**

We give thanks for this congregation and those who plan worship. Guide deacons, pastors, musicians, and lay leaders in their creation of meaningful experiences. Instill in us a sense of joy and wonder when we come to worship you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful who now rest in you (*especially Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant, pastors in North America, whom we commemorate today*). Teach us by their example and bring us with them into your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P. Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C. Amen.

PEACE

Stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.

THE OFFERING

The Thanksgiving Financial Offering collected will be given to Future Forward for Haiti to provide meals for children in Haiti.

Offerings of nonperishable food will be given to Christ Church Food Pantry and distributed to those in need in our area.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

Now Thank We All Our God

Robert Hobby

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Let us pray.

God of all goodness,

generations have turned to you, gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

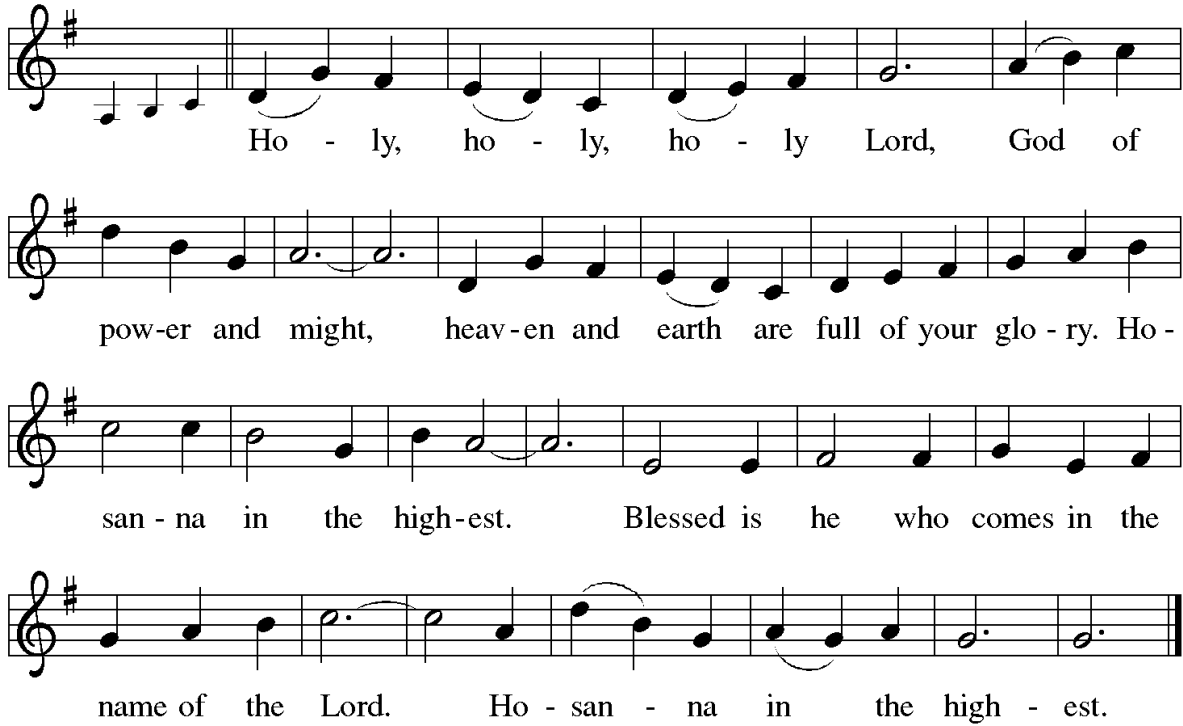
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, holy, Holy is the
LORD
of hosts; the whole earth is full
of his glory.
Isaiah 6:1

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
Gave thanks, blessed and 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.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lords Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

P. O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

P. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace, and love.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

P. With your holy ones of all times and places,
With the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,
We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C. Amen.

LORDS PRAYER

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come to the table where all are welcome.



AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



**Please stay seated until the person in front of you
has received the wafer.**

**Continue to mask until after you have received the wafer
and have stepped away from the Pastor.**

*A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section.
The center contains purple grape juice.
White wine is in the remainder of the tray.*

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

***All who are baptized and believe Christ is present in the meal
offering forgiveness of sins and eternal life may receive communion.***

*If you do not wish to receive Communion,
you may cross your arms in front of you and come forward to receive a blessing.*

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Let us pray:

Lord Jesus,

in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey,

strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,

and give us glad and generous hearts

as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

BLESSING

P. May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

Amen.

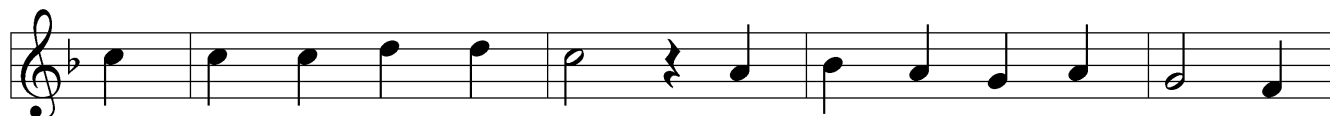
Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

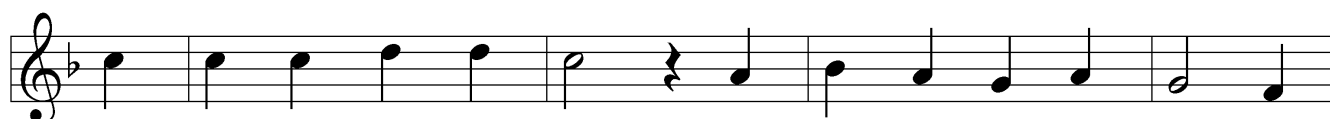
Please stand as you are able.

SENDING HYMN: *Now Thank We All Our God*

LBW 534



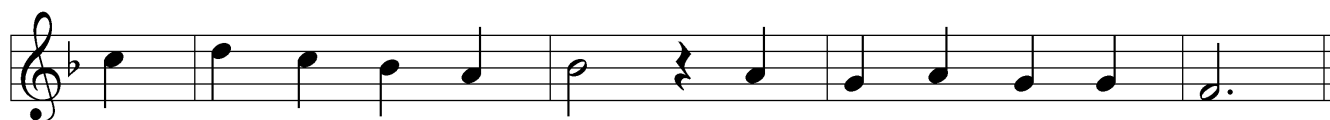
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL

P. Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

David Cherwien

Thank You for Your Generous Giving!

OFFERINGS can be received by mail:
Grace Lutheran Church, 1200 River Rd, Teaneck, NJ 07666



NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

Next Bible Study Thursday, January 6th at Noon



WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

A Shared Advent Worship Series with Eucharist.

Dec 1, 8, 15, 22

[Held Each Week In-Person](#) at

Trinity Lutheran Church
167 Palisade Ave, Bogota

Masking & Social Distancing Required.

[Zoom connection link is available.](#)

“Preparing in Christ’s Presence”

REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Grab ‘n Go or Grab ‘n Stay

Refreshments are prepackaged.

PREACHERS & SPONSORING CONGREGATIONS

Pastor Peggy Niederer – Grace, Teaneck
Pastor Patt Kauffman – St. Paul, Teaneck/Ridgefield
Pastor Danielle McCleary – St. Matthew, Secaucus
Pastor Lisa Holliday – Trinity, Bogota



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT MASS DECEMBER 24th - 9 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS DECEMBER 25th - 11 AM



PRAYERS

Carol Weber; Zulema Suarez (following surgery); Donald Lazlear and his family (Zulema's friends); Katie (Zulema's niece), Surella (Katie's mom), and Frank Borowski (Katie's dad), and aunt; Enrique Perez (Jack's father-in-law); Marc Yaffe (Leslyn's and Michael's son); Melanie M. (Julie's friend); Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Nancy McCabe (Lynn's sister-in-law who has COPD); Nancy Galya (Lynn's former coworker); Bill Ewing (Sue's husband and Grace's Attorney); Gina Ewing in her work regarding equality and justice for all; Dick Barlotta (Sue Papera's brother-in-law/Penny's husband, following knee replacement surgery); Jason and Paul Thalmann (Janet's nephew and brother); Kathy Obtain (a co-worker of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Hahnah and Navi (Karen Bartholomew's friend's children); Mark Crovatto (Al's son); Susan Beever (Mary Ellen's friend); Arline A. (Mary Ellen's friend with metastatic cancer); Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law) who work for the State Department, working in Beijing; Susan (Lorli's sister-in-law); Tammy (Lorli's niece who has an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Caridad (Rosa's aunt); Jael (Rosa's cousin); The Rosillo family (Surella's friends with Covid); Liz Frentzel (health concerns); Gerry Schlask (following back surgery); Tom Corcoran (Gerry Schlask's friend, following heart attacks); Kevin (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Tom (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (health concerns); Lorli Steffen (hip replacement); Erika Ilgenfritz (following cataract surgery); Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (cancer); the people of Afghanistan, Americans, and allies who are still there; front line workers, medical researchers; health experts, national and regional officials; those affected by natural disasters and wildfires.



Upcoming Commemorations

Thursday, November 25th

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

Tuesday, November 30th

Andrew, Apostle

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Friday, December 3rd

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Saturday, December 4th

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24091. Copyrighted elements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies under License #SBL 14267. *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989. Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.