

August 24, 2025

11th Sunday After 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

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Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

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

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Come Ye Disconsolate

by J. Bert Carlson

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you free us to love others, you lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, and you surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity. And yet, O Merciful God, we turn aside to our own paths, and we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's beloved children. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

ELW #864

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 page 203

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW page 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

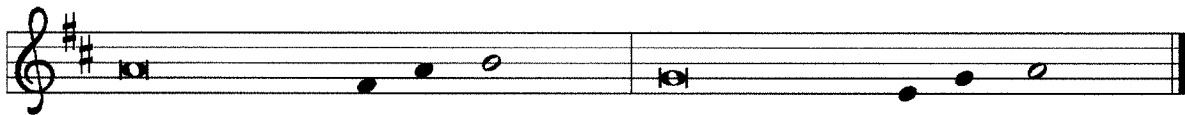
PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

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.

PSALM 103:1-8



- 1 Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- 2 **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
- 3 who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
- 4 **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;
- 5 who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- 6 **O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- 7 You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- 8 **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶

And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷
 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

"How Much More So"

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Bless The Lord, O My Soul

by Mikhail Ippolitof-Ivanof

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Bless the Lord and forget not all His benefits.

Who redeemeth life from destruction,

Who crowneth thee with loving kindness.

He will not always chide, neither will He keep His anger forever.

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

WOV #732

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Hear us, O God," please respond with "Your mercy is great."

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ELW page 207

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

We joyfully acknowledge the first Holy Communion of Anna Denise Kreuz and Rylie Rae Davis, and invite them to come forward first to share in this meal with their families.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW page 208

COMMUNION HYMNS

Come Ye Disconsolate

ELW #607

I Come With Joy

ELW #482

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will have continuous communion in front of the steps today. EVERYONE IS INVITED to come down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats via the side aisle. There is white grape juice in the center of the circular tray and red wine in the outer part of the tray. If you are unable to come up to the front, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children or those who have not received a first communion are welcome to come for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you gathered us to your table and we were filled with your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* **ELW #886**
 Verse 1, 3, 6 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 CHOIR, Verse 5 MEN

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

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune in C Major* by David N. Johnson

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

*We are glad for your presence today.
 We hope you come again soon!*

*Please join us for cake and fellowship following
 worship, as we celebrate the First Holy Communion
 of Anna Kreuz and Rylie Davis!*

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Sharon Ehrhardt

**The flowers sponsor this week is: Mary Goodman, in memory of her
 friend, Dotte.**



Scott will **not** be playing the noon recital at Boardwalk Hall August 29.
He thanks all who have come out to hear him play!
We will inform you of any future organ recitals.

Good Old Days Festival

Our church is planning to have a booth again this year at the
Good Old Days Festival at Kennedy Park
September 6 from 11 AM-6 PM.

This is always a great opportunity to get our name out in the community, meet our neighbors, and share about our faith, ministries, and upcoming events our church provides.

If you have any time to spare on that day, we could really use your assistance. All you need to do is show up with a bright smile and the love Christ in your heart! Those who helped last year had fun helping to hand out fliers, brochures and give-away items, and assisting with our prayer tree and craft.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone who wishes to be part of this wonderful event.

**Please plan to join us for a
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
to discuss finances and stewardship.

Sunday, October 5 at 11:00 AM

This meeting will follow a shortened worship service. Coffee and tea will be available. Consider bringing a dessert to share.

**Lutheran Social Ministries Workshop:
Navigating Senior Living**

Sunday, October 12 at noon here at Grace. Lunch will be provided. This workshop discusses different types of care communities. Walk away with 5 key items to look for when choosing a retirement or healthcare community.

Please RSVP so we have a headcount for lunch.

**OKTOBERFEST
Friday, October 17, 2025
Grace Lutheran Church
5:00-7:00 PM**

*Tickets may be purchased online
through this QR code or in person by
calling the church office at
609-927-3082*



Tickets are also on sale in the narthex on Sundays.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

August 24, 2025—August 31, 2025

11th Sunday of Pentecost 8/24/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
First Holy Communion:
Anna Kreuz & Rylie Davis

MONDAY 8/25/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 8/26/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 8/27/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
 6:00PM AA Book Study
 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 8/28/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 AA 12-Step
 7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 8/29/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
 7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 8/30/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

12th Sunday of Pentecost 8/31/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 10:15AM Traditional Worship

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00

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