

## Grace Lutheran Church

8:00 am: Spoken Service & 10:15 am: Liturgical Service Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

## Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: <a href="mailto:pastoralthea3@gmail.com">pastoralthea3@gmail.com</a> or by phone 484-345-0399.

## Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to belong to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who believe as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to *become* caring servants of God in the world.

## Serving in Worship Today

Worship Assistant: Kevin Thomas

Altar Guild: Brenda Traa

# In Our Hearts and Prayers

## Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace!

If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

Members of Grace: Betty N., John N., Ruth T., Debbie K., Marlene D., Joyce B.

Family and friends: Donna, Gage, Donna, Virginia, Carol (Pastor Althea);

Payton (Joyce Bianco), Deb, Glen, Marilyn, Peggy, Jeanne (Bowdens); Baby Stella (Clare Brick);

Annmarie, Kathy (Marlene Doer); Phyllis, Shawn (Carol Fry); Jody (Grings);

Michael Ann, Rod (June Jordan); Shirley & Carl (Debbie Kleuser); Jim, Vicki, (Meg LaSpina),

Bernadette, Lou; Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, (Renee Pugliese); Catherine and Sal (Corrine Rhodes);

Karen (Sue Robinson); Dotte Currie, (Deborah Walker), Wisdom Family (Welfields);

Eileen, Marie, Beverlee, Darlene

Those Serving Our Country: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN;

Cainan Johnson, USAF

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme,

Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

## ELW Setting 4 Congregation responses in bold print.

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

**PRELUDE** 

Bred Dina Vida Vingar

setting by John Ferguson

Please stand as you are able

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: As we come before God this Lent, let us pray together.

Almighty God, you know us from before we are born.

You never leave our side.

You know our joy and our sadness.

You know our outward successes and our innermost failings.

We come before you now wanting to worship you.

Forgive us when we stray and bring us closer to your Spirit once again. Amen.

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

Pastor: God of mercy,

We confess that we have not always stayed in close relationship with you, God.

We often let worry and fear consume us.

We do not always follow your call for us.

We do not always treat our neighbors with love.

For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may return to you again and glorify your holy name. Amen.

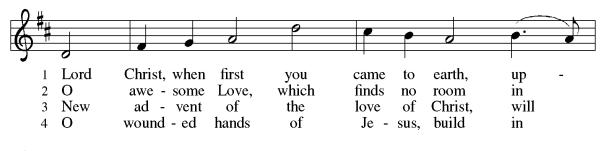
Pastor: God is merciful and just. Christ suffered, was crucified, and died for us and for all our sins. As a minister of the church of Christ, I declare to you that God forgives all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Return to the Lord your God with a new spirit, ready to accept God's gift of grace.

Amen.

### **GATHERING HYMN** Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

ELW # 727





they bound you, mocked your sav - ing and on a cross doomed life where sin de nies you, and, to death, shall till night a - gain of we fuse you, in the re pride us your new cre a tion; our is dust, our



king-ship's worth by bring to doom the hate and war we vaunt is stilled; we

thorns with which they crowned you. And till pow'r that ci cru fies you, per - ish lose From as we you? your rev tion. 0 wait la e



still our wrongs may not a stone is an - cient doubts our Love that tri - umphs fash - ion now new left on stone, and minds re - lease to o - ver loss, we

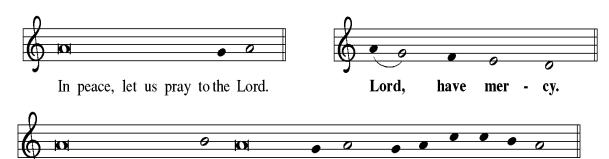
thorns to pierce that then the na - tions' seek the king - dom bring our hearts be



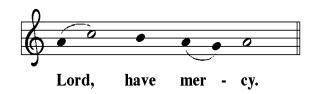
#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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**

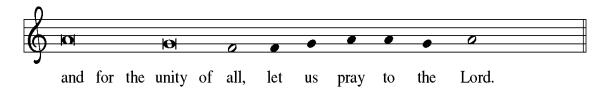


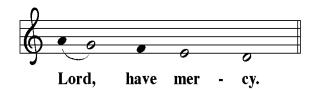
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



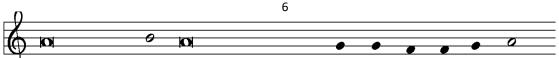


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

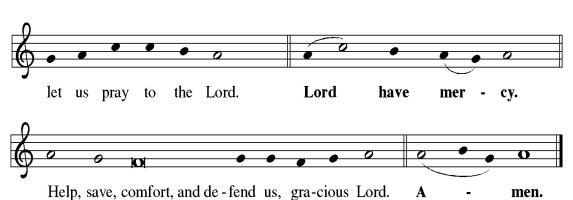




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For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together....God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying

darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates." The word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God** 



#### **PSALM: Psalm 27**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers close in against me to de- vour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- ble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup>One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God  $^{\dag}$  in the temple.

<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- on a rock.

<sup>6</sup>Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music  $^{\parallel}$  to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; / have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup>My heart speaks your message— | "Seek my face." / Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

<sup>10</sup>Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me, / the LORD will | take me in.

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your | way, O LORD; / lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup>Subject me not to the will | of my foes,

for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.

<sup>13</sup>This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD / in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD and be strong. / Take heart and wait for the LORD!

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17--4:1**

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the thirteenth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

#### **GOSPEL:** Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Althea Albright

**SERMON** 

Rev. Althea Albright





#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

#### WEEKLY OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

#### **OFFERTORY**

The Lord is My Light Soloist: Ruth Bowden

By Frances Allitsen

Please stand as you are able

#### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS



#### OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Sovereign God,

We rejoice that we are able to give back our blessings to you for your holy work. You have changed our lives forever with your mercy and grace. Give us opportunities to change the lives of others with your Gospel message. Bless our congregation, this community, and everything we give back to you for mission and ministry, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Pastor:* Drawn close to the heart of God this Lenten season, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Brief silence.

Leader: You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and strengthen those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Leader: You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Pastor: You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving all those whom we name now or in our hearts... Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Pastor: Accept the prayers we bring to you, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

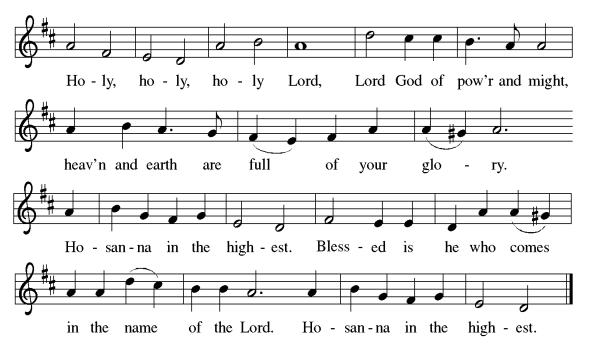
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### **PREFACE**

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

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:

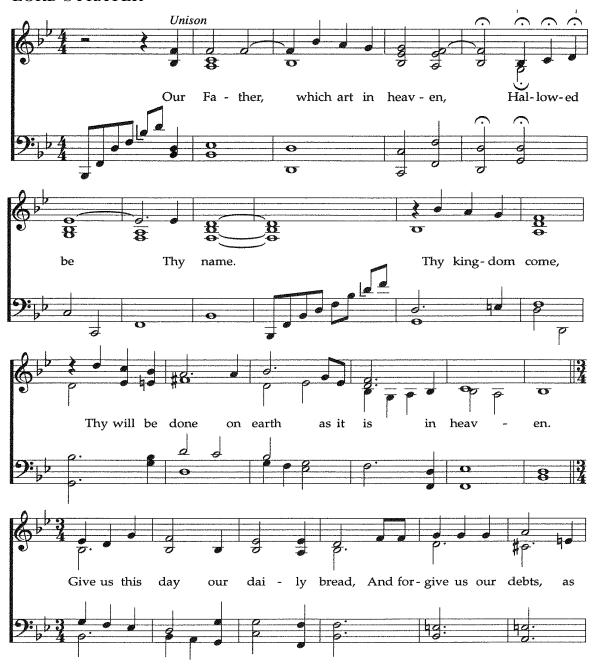
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER



TEXT: Matthew 6:9-13
MUSIC: Albert Hay Mallotte; arranged by Donald P. Hustad
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MALOTTE Irregular meter



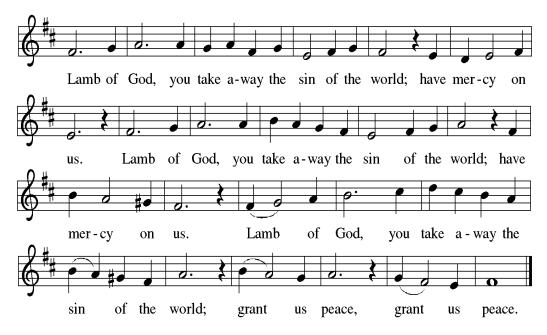
#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God invites us to this meal of food and drink for the journey.

Communion will be offered in two ways, continuous at the chancel step, and at the direction of Pastor after everyone has come forward (for those at home online and those who choose to remain seated).

Follow the direction of the ushers to come to the front or remain seated and after all have come forward, direction for the prefilled host and grape juice will be given.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**



Please be seated

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### IF YOU CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD:

Follow the directions of Pastor and the Ushers.

#### IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT OR YOU ARE ONLINE:

Prepare your elements after all have come forward and wait for direction from Pastor.

#### BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After experiencing the love of Christ in this holy meal, may he continue to strengthen you and hold you close. **Amen.** 

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... Sustaining God, as you have been present with us at this table, form us and encourage us to share your life-giving word and grace with all people. Amen.

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

**BLESSING** 

We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.

#### SENDING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, we are living in difficult times. As we have worshiped with you this day, you have refreshed us with your Word and given us hope. Send us as witnesses of your Gospel message, that we may be light for the world, as we continue through this season of Lent. **Amen.** 

#### BLESSING

Pastor: May Almighty God bless you and keep you. May Christ's mercy and forgiveness remind you to go and sin no more. May the Spirit guide you and keep you safe from the evil in the world. And finally may God's love bring you comfort and + give you peace. **Amen.** 

## SENDING HYMN

All Who Love and Serve Your City

Music on page 18

**ELW # 724** 

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE Vivance From J. S. Bach's Third Violin Suite, Arr. By Homer Whitfield

## DISMISSAL

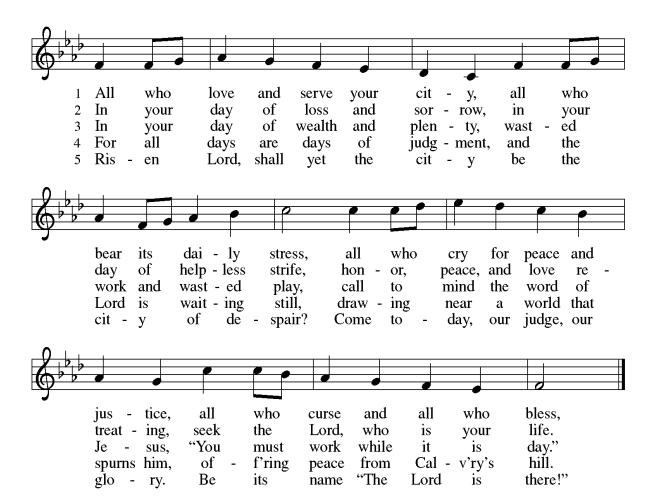
Leader: Go in the love of Christ and serve others with kindness! Thanks be to God!

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All Who Love and Serve Your City

**ELW # 724** 



Text: Erik Routley, 1917-1982

Music: NEW ORLEANS, Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

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# Daily Bible Reading for Lent

## Week 1

Lord God, by Your Word Fill Me with a Spirit of Repentance and Forgiveness

Sunday Psalm 51

Monday Matthew 6:5-15 Tuesday Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday Luke 15:11-32

Thursday Ephesians 4:25—5:2 Friday 1 John 1:5-10

Friday 1 John 1:5-1 Saturday Psalm 130

### Week 2

Lord God, by Your Word Fill Me with a Spirit of Hope and Trust

Sunday Genesis 12:1-9 Monday Genesis 22:1-19 Tuesday Isaiah 51:1-16 Wednesday Luke 12:22-34 Thursday Romans 4:13-25

Friday Hebrews 6:13-20 Saturday Psalm 62

## Week 3

Lord God, by Your Word Fill Me with a Spirit of Gratitude and Thanksgiving

Sunday Luke 17:11-19
Monday 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Tuesday Ephesians 5:6-20
Wednesday Philippians 4:1-9
Thursday Colossians 3:1-17
Friday 1 Chronicles 16:7-36

Saturday Psalm 103

### Week 4

Lord God, by Your Word Fill Me with a Spirit of Love and Servanthood

Sunday Matthew 23:1-12
Monday Mark 10:35-45
Tuesday John 15:1-17
Wednesday Romans 12:9-21
Thursday Romans 13:8-14
Friday 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Saturday 1 John 4:7-21

### Week 5

Lord God, by Your Word Fill Me with a Spirit of Discipleship and Commitment

Sunday Luke 5:1-11
Monday Luke 9:22-27
Tuesday Matthew 10:16-33
Wednesday Matthew 10:34-42
Thursday John 15:18-27
Friday 2 Timothy 2:1-13
Saturday 2 Timothy 3:10-17

## Week 6

Lord God, by Your Word Fill Me with a Spirit of Obedience and Humility

Sunday John 13:1-20 Monday Philippians 2:1-11

Tuesday Psalm 22

Wednesday Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Thursday Luke 22:39-71 Friday Luke 23:1-56

Saturday Hebrews 4:14—5:10

# Events This Week - March 13 - 20, 2022

## Sunday 3/13 LENT 2

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge 8:45 am - Adult Sunday School 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion Grace Friends Sunday School 4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm - CateChism Class @ Grace

## Monday 3/14

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 10:00 am - Clergy Bible Study 7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

## Tuesday 3/15

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 6:30 pm - NA

7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting

## Wednesday 3/16

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Duplicate Bridge 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

## Thursday 3/17

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry
5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm - Bread and Broth Supper
Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm - Lenten Study
Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

## Friday 3/18

10:00 am - Grace Stitchers 7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

## Saturday 3/19

## Sunday 3/20 LENT 3

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge 8:45 am - Adult Sunday School 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion Grace Friends Sunday School Joyful Noise offering—Camp Crossroads 4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall