

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: pastoralthea3@gmail.com 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: Mary Ann Gring 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

<u>At Home</u> - 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

Come to the Waters Duet: Ruth Bowden and Corinne Rhodes by G. F. Handel

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.



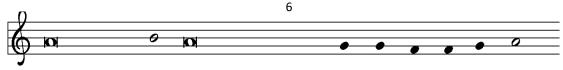
- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend. Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam. Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

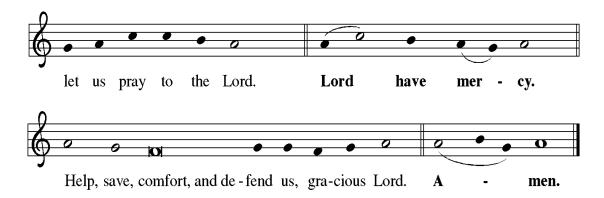
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE





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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together.... Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways. ¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts. The word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God**



PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God; eager- [|] ly I seek you;

my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there [|] is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your ¹ holy place,

that I might behold your power | and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;

my lips shall | give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long | as I live / and lift up my hands | in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the rich-[|] est of foods,

and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you up- $^{|}$ on my bed, / and meditate on you in $^{|}$ the night watches.

⁷For you have ¹ been my helper, / and under the shadow of your wings I ¹ will rejoice.

⁸My whole being [|] clings to you; / your right hand [|] holds me fast.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

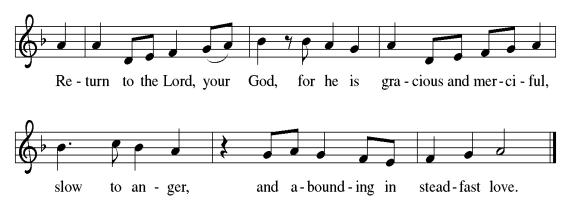
Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Althea Albright

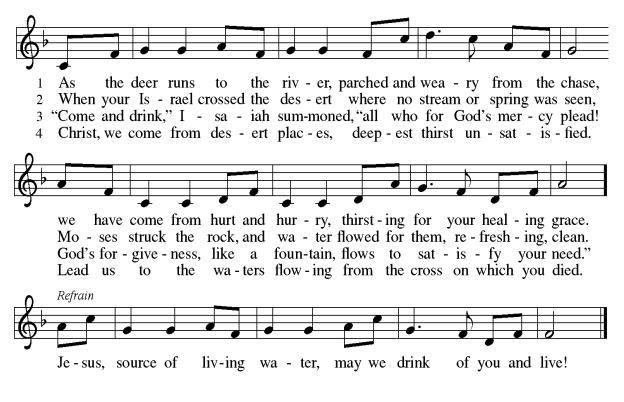
SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

HYMN OF THE DAY

10 As the Deer Runs to the River

ELW # 331



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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

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING Lutheran Disaster Relief

Monthly special offering for a designated local, national and international ministry. Our Third-Sunday usher team takes a few extra minutes before our regular weekly offering to collect this special offering of coin donations.

WEEKLY OFFERING

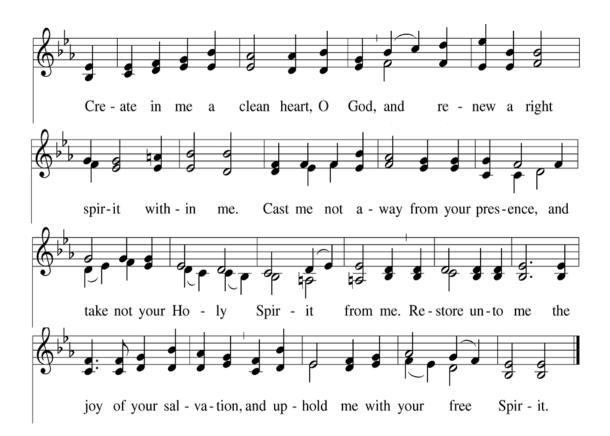
We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

Seek Ye the Lord Tenor: Charles Bowden By J.V. Roberts

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:* We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, seminarians, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- *Leader:* For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Leader: For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Pastor: For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing especially the people on our hearts today... 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

13

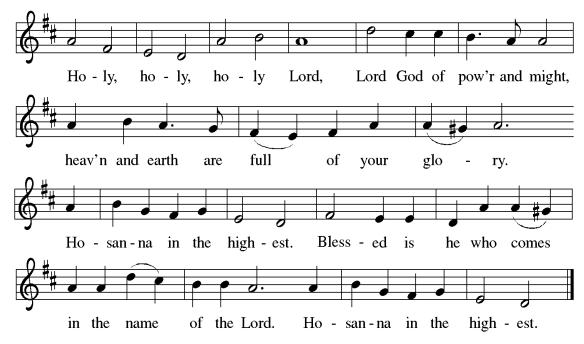
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

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.**

14



TEXT: Matthew 6:9-13 MUSIC: Albert Hay Mallotte; arranged by Donald P. Hustad © Copyright 1935 (Renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

MALOTTE Irregular meter

as

P



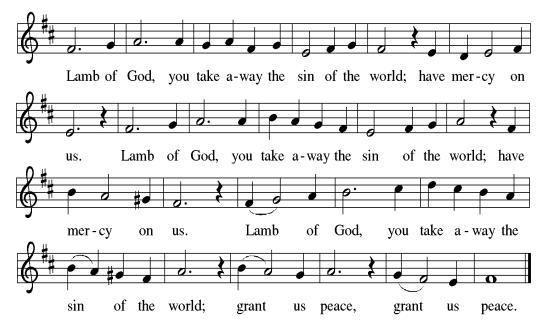
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.



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	Come to Me, All Pilgrims	ELW # 777
	Verses 4, 5, & 6	

Please be seated for the postlude.

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

POSTLUDE

Sortie

By Nicholas Jaques Lemmens

DISMISSAL

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

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SENDING HYMN

18 Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty Verses 4, 5, & 6

ELW # 777



- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend. Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam. Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

Daily Bible Reading for Lent

<u>Week 1</u> 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
Saturday	Psalm 130

<u>Week 2</u> 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

<u>Week 3</u> 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

<u>Week 4</u> Lord God, by Your Word Fill Me with a Spirit of Love and Servanthood

Matthew 23:1-12
Mark 10:35-45
John 15:1-17
Romans 12:9-21
Romans 13:8-14
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
1 John 4:7-21

<u>Week 5</u>

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

<u>Week 6</u>

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

Sundar	John 12.1 20
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 20 - 27, 2022

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 Lutheran Disaster Relief

4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall

<u>Monday 3/21</u> 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

<u>Tuesday 3/22</u> 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 6:30 pm - NA

<u>Wednesday 3/23</u> 9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry 11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Duplicate Bridge 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

Thursday 3/24

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 3/25 10:00 am - Grace Stitchers 7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

Saturday 3/26

Sunday 3/27 LENT 4 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