

**HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE
THIS WEEK
March 17, 2024—March 25, 2024**

5th Sunday in Lent 3/17/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 3/18/24

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

TUESDAY 3/19/24

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

WEDNESDAY 3/20/24

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM
Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Althea is often in the
office and she is always
available by appointment.

THURSDAY 3/21/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
2:00PM Grief Support Group
5:00 Choir Rehearsal
**5:00PM Oktoberfest Committee
Meeting**
**6:00PM Bread & Broth/Video &
Discussion**
7:00PM Church Council Meeting

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 3/22/24

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

SATURDAY 3/23/24

No events

Palm Sunday 3/24/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

Catechism Class

WILL NOT MEET TODAY

March 17, 2024

5th Sunday in Lent



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ

Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

E-mail: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor ☩ Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

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
red hymnal found in the pews.*

~ GATHERING ~

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

Introduction

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

WELCOME

Corinne Rhodes

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre by R. Vaughan Williams

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

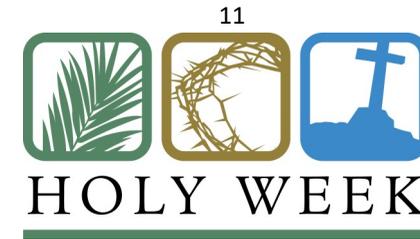
Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

My Song is Love Unknown
VERSES 1, 2, & 3

ELW #343



Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

8:00AM and 10:15AM worship with palms and service of healing and anointing.

(No Adult Forum Sunday School this day at 8:45AM.)

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024

12:00PM (noon) Worship with Holy Communion
5:45PM Holy Communion, stripping of the altar, dinner and movie “Babette’s Feast”

Good Friday, March 29, 2024

12:00PM (noon) Worship Service
5:45PM Holy Communion, stripping of the altar, dinner and movie “Babette’s Feast”

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

8:00AM and 10:15AM Celebration of the Resurrection of Christ
Worship Service with Holy Communion
(No Adult Forum Sunday School this day at 8:45AM.)

The Church Office will be CLOSED on
March 28–April 1, 2024
in observance of Easter.

BABY SHOWER



for Shore Memorial NICU

will be hosted by Grace Lutheran Church along with our brothers and sisters from Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon

Friday, May 17th at 12:00 PM

Lunch will be served for Shore

Medical nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T), diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Sunday, May 12

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

White Booklet page 2

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live 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.**

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.

~ **WORD** ~

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the

least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM 51:1-12



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- ³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

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

We thank all those serving in worship today!

Worship Leader: James Ehrhardt

Reader: Meg Markkanen

STRONGER TOGETHER Grief Support Group



The next meeting times are scheduled for **Monday, March 18 at 7:00 PM**, and the second group will meet on **Thursday, March 21, at 2:00 PM**. Anyone is welcome to attend one or both groups as they fit your schedule.

Charts to sponsor flowers and other items are now back up on the bulletin board downstairs across from the elevator, by popular demand. The charts will not be in the narthex. If you are unable to get to the bulletin board, you are always welcome to call the church office and Corinne will sign you up for the date you wish to be a sponsor.

advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Heal all who are sick, *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation, *especially the Grief Support Group and our greeting card ministry.* Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us *especially Saint Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today.* Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

My Song Is Love Unknown
VERSES 4, 5, & 6

ELW #343

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

POSTLUDE

Lenten Postlude

by Matthew Koch

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

White Booklet page 3

The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The

hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Please be seated.

FAITH REFLECTION

James Ehrhardt

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Word of God is Source and Seed* **ELW #506**

THE APOSTLES' 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.**

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

*Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of February is
Sister Jean's Kitchen in Atlantic City.*

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* by Carl F. Mueller

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **WOV #732**

OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, **you have blessed us with many good things. Fill us with your spirit of love and courage at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *Brief silence.*

A: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support