

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

March 10, 2024—March 17, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent 3/10/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
**4:00PM Catechism Class at
Reformation**

MONDAY 3/11/24

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

TUESDAY 3/12/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 3/13/24

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

THURSDAY 3/14/24

Pastor on vacation
9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
5:00 Choir Rehearsal
**6:00PM Bread & Broth/Video &
Discussion**
7:00PM Antique Club

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 3/15/24

Pastor on vacation
10:30AM Grace Stitches
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 3/16/24

Pastor on vacation
No events

5th Sunday in Lent 3/17/24

Pastor on vacation
8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Joyful Noise Offering
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**Pastor Althea will be on vacation from Thurs, March 14
through Sun, March 17.**

Please call her directly if an emergency arises.

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent



1924 - 2024



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

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Savior, Thy Dying Love

by Roger C. Wilson

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. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Bread and Broth Supper throughout Lent

Join us Thursdays at 6:00PM

in the Fellowship Hall for supper

6:30PM faith enrichment video series

The Chosen

(March 14 & 21)



Please sign up to bring bread, soup, or a salad so we know what food we will have each week. Call the church office or sign up in the narthex on the sign up sheet on Sundays.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

8:00AM and 10:15AM worship with palms
(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
6:30PM Worship Service

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.)

POSTLUDE*Intermezzo*from *Cavalleria Rusticana*
by Pietro Mascagni**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.*We are glad for your presence today.
We hope you come again soon!***We thank all those serving in worship today!**
Reader: June Jordan**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 the group that best fits your schedule.

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

OPENING HYMN *Give to Our God Immortal Praise!***ELW #848****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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up
this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us
into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through 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: Numbers 21:4-9***Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the
wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they
experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they
repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a
pole.*

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to
go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.
⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought
us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no
water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous
serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites
died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking

against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22



¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

All are welcome at the table of Christ. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *Lamb of God White Booklet page 4*

EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

Lift High the Cross

ELW #660

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

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

~ **HOLY COMMUNION** ~

GREAT THANKSGIVING

White Booklet page 3

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.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

White Booklet page 4

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, 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.

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. **Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.**

through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who

believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Loved the World

ELW #323

VERSE 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 4 WOMEN

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.**

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

from the *Crucifixion*
by John Stainer

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: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain, *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**