

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

September 8, 2024—September 15, 2024

15th Sunday of Pentecost 9/8/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Blessing of Backpacks

**Fellowship Hour Sponsored by
Worship & Music Committee**

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 9/9/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

10:00AM Clergy Bible Study

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 9/10/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

12:00PM WELCA

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 9/11/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM Alateen

7:00PM Financial Support Meeting

7:00PM Compassionate Friends

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 9/12/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

7:00PM Antique Club

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 9/13/24

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 9/14/24

No Events

16th Sunday of Pentecost 9/15/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Joyful Noise Offering

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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

September 8, 2024 16th Sunday of Pentecost



1924 - 2024



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

E-mail: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Vice Pastor † Wendolyn Trozzo, 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 us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Meditation

by Einar Lindblom

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCA invites all women to join them for lunch this Tuesday, September 10, at 12:00 noon in the lounge. Please RSVP to Roberta Blumenthal at 609-927-1654.

100th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Join us on Saturday, September 21 at 6:30 pm for an evening of entertainment and fun with The Playmates!

Flutist Pamela Whitman
Pianist Scott Breiner
Bassist Rich Kurtz
Drummer Jason Koenig

This will be a benefit concert for the **Ocean City Humane Society** and the **Beacon Animal Rescue**. Checks can be made out to either organization or to Grace Lutheran Church for distribution. Meet and Greet with light refreshments following the concert!

Oktoberfest 2024 will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on **Friday, September 27 from 5:00 PM-8:00 PM,**

featuring the German band "Not Another Oompah Band"!

Tickets are on sale today in the narthex: \$30 for adults, \$15 for youth, and children 5 and under are free. You may also call the church office to purchase tickets. There is a limited number, so the sooner you purchase, the better!

Oktoberfest Food Prep Needed

If you are able to donate a red cabbage or help prepare food for the Oktoberfest, please pick up a recipe in the narthex for what you would like to make and sign up on the sign-up sheet to let us know what you are making and how much. If you would like to contribute but do not have the time to make something, monetary donations are certainly appreciated, as well.



The flowers, candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of all teachers and students as they return to school. May they have a positive and productive year!

Home Reading of the Week:

Second Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Earth and All Starts!

ELW #731

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

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 1

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer 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 146



¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

³Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
 whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps promis- | es forever;
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who
 hunger.
 The LORD sets the | captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who |**
are bowed down;
the LORD | loves the righteous.
⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
 the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the
 wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

READING : Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 “Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God.
 He will come with vengeance,
 with terrible recompense.
 He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;
^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with
 dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace
 with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BLESSING

God almighty, God most merciful ✝ bless you, keep you, and give
 you peace. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

There is a Balm in Gilead

ELW #614

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

POSTLUDE

Earth and All Starts

by Keith Kolander

DISMISSAL Go in peace and follow Jesus. **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: Mary Ann Gring

**Please join us for Fellowship following worship, sponsored by the
 Worship and Music Committee!**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

We give thanks for your Son, who in the night in which he was betrayed, 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. **Amen.**

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

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

white booklet page 4

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Bread of Life From Heaven

ELW #480

I Come With Joy

ELW #482

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 7th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him,

“Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

ELW #726

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.**

Please be seated.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS FOR STUDENTS

All students, teachers, administrators, or school personnel are invited to come forward for a blessing for the new school year!

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Springs in the Desert* by Arthur B. Jennings, Jr.

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in me a Clean Heart* **WOV page 732**

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. **By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.
Brief silence.

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Merciful God," please respond with "Receive our prayer."

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb, who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: