

January 19, 2025

2nd Sunday After Epiphany



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

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

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Interim 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!

Please make a nametag and write your favorite bible miracle.

INTRODUCTION

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Let All Things Now Living

by David Cherwien

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(from Isaiah 43:1-5)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment or indifference. When we ignore the needs of our neighbors; when we resist your call to oppose injustice; when we give in to scarcity and fear; when we assume the worst about one another, cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have

redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

All Are Welcome

ELW #641

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

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

WOV #28

HYMN OF PRAISE

WOV #29

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior 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. Read on another's nametags to build our Christian fellowship.

Please be seated.

PSALM 36:5-10



⁵ Your love, O LORD, reaches ¹ to the heavens,
and your faithfulness ¹ to the clouds.

⁶ **Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like ¹ the great deep;**

you save humankind and ani- ¹ mals, O LORD.

⁷ How priceless is your ¹ love, O God!

All people take refuge under the shadow ¹ of your wings.

⁸ **They feast upon the abundance ¹ of your house;
you give them drink from the river of ¹ your delights.**

⁹ For with you is the ¹ well of life,
and in your light ¹ we see light.

¹⁰ **Continue your lovingkindness to ¹ those who know you,
and your favor to those who are ¹ true of heart.**

READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,

so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 2:1-11

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them

up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You

ELW #312

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love

by Arlene Clarke

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

WOV #35

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *Brief silence.*

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

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

WOV #36

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

WOV #39

COMMUNION HYMNS

*Now We Join In Celebration
On Eagles Wings*

ELW #462

ELW #787

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING**BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN*Sent Forth by God's Blessing***ELW #547**

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

POSTLUDE*The Ash Grove*

by Frank Stoldt

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Live in hope.
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:
Worship Assistant: Meg Markkanen**



**The flowers sponsor this week is:
Bettie Cross, thanking God for his many blessings!**

**The Candles sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal,
in memory of her mother-in-law, Eleanor.**

Announcements and Information

Giving envelopes for 2025 and statements for 2024 are located in the narthex if you have not picked yours up yet. Please be sure you take the ones with your name on them.

Church Directories are here! If you did not get yours yet, please see Corinne Rhodes or Carol Landes after worship or stop by the church office during Corinne's office hours to receive yours.

WELCA would like to thank everyone who donated hats, gloves, and mittens for children in need this winter. Those items have been delivered to Northfield Elementary School.

Pastor Wendolyn will be away on vacation from January 21-February 12. If a pastoral emergency should arise during that time, please call the church office and Corinne will put you in contact with Rev. Heidi Link who will be on call for emergencies.

Please mark your calendars for our
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 2 immediately following the
10:15 AM Worship Service.
Your attendance for this is very important!

Home Reading of the Week:

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

*Office is closed Monday for
M.L.K. Holiday.*

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

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

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

January 19, 2025—January 26, 2025

2nd Sunday of Epiphany 1/19/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Budget Hearing

MONDAY 1/20/25

Office Closed for M.L.K. Holiday

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 1/21/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 1/22/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 1/23/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

6:00 AA 12-Step

7:00PM Grief Support Group

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 1/24/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 1/25/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

3rd Sunday of Epiphany 1/26/25

(Guest Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Eaton)

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Fellowship sponsored by
The Dolans and Gay Rowland**