

February 2, 2025

4th 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 the name of the city or town & state you grew up in.

INTRODUCTION

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

WELCOME

James Ehrhardt

PRELUDE

When Love Is Found

by Emma Lou Diemer

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671

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

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, 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.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah’s task is to preach God’s word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
 and before you were born I consecrated you;
 I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

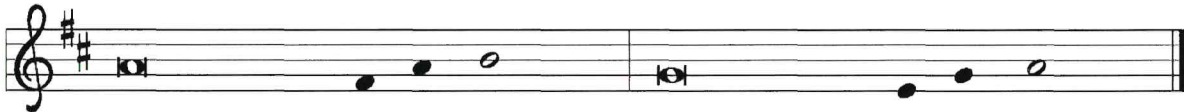
⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

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

PSALM 71:1-6



¹ In you, O LORD, have I | taken refuge;
let me never be | put to shame.

² **In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free;
incline your ear to | me and save me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to | keep me safe;
you are my crag | and my stronghold.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor.**

⁵ For you are my hope, | O Lord GOD,
my confidence since | I was young.

⁶ **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my
mother’s womb you have | been my strength;
my praise shall be al- | ways of you.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14:21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

“St. Paul’s Valentine”

Jim Ehrhardt

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Although I Speak With Angel’s Tongue* **ELW #644**

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.

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of February is Atlantic City Rescue Mission.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *If Tongues of Men and Angels Sing* by Mark Schweizer

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.**

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.

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW #631

**PLEASE STAY AND JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP!**

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

*Special thank you to Jim Ehrhardt for leading our worship
service today!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Edna Cordery**



**The flowers sponsor this week is:
Kathy Wopatek-Nigsch, in loving memory of her mother,
Catherine Wopatek.**

**The candles and wine sponsor is: Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of her
daughter Sara & John Rawles' marriage!**

Additional Announcements and Information

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.

Next Sunday, February 9: Super Bowl of Caring

Please bring a can of soup for our Food Pantry, and place in the designated bin. Soups other than tomato, chicken noodle, and chicken and rice would be most appreciated.

Friday, February 14: Bring Your Heart to Grace

6:00 PM Dinner & Movie "The Sound of Hope"

Donation Drive for children in foster care.

See page 11 of bulletin.

Please place these items in the designated bin in the narthex.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Please sign up to bring something to eat or drink for the dinner.

If anyone is in need of a chair lift for their house, please see Corinne or call the church office for information.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, February 14th

6:00 PM

Bring Your  to Grace

Dinner

Italian Fare

Meatballs

Sausage

Baked ziti

Pizza

Salad

Vino

Chocolate Desserts

SIGN-UP SHEET TO FOLLOW

and

Movie

Angel Studios

The Sound of Hope

The Story of Possum Trot

(a town in Texas)

Thrivent members needed for Action Team \$\$\$

DONATION DRIVE



#NoMoreTrashBags for children in foster care



A Comfort Case is a backpack filled with comfort and personal care items for children entering foster care.

DONATE NEW ITEMS FOR COMFORT CASES

- Baby wipes
- Baby washcloths
- Baby bibs
- Baby lotion
- Baby toothbrushes
- Diaper cream
- Books (all ages)
- Baby shampoo/ body wash
- Travel size shampoo & conditioner
- Travel size body wash or soap
- Travel size lotion
- Toothbrushes (youth & adult, 1-3 pack only)
- Pajamas (newborn-adult 3XL)
- Blankets (receiving blankets, up to 30"x40")
- Toothpaste (youth & adult, travel size)
- Journals
- Pens and pencils
- Coloring books
- Crayons
- Stuffed animals
- Backpacks
- Deodorant

Shop our Amazon Wish List to send items directly to our center - comfortcases.org/wishlist

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

February 2, 2025—February 9, 2025

4th Sunday of Epiphany 2/2/25

(Worship Leader: Jim Ehrhardt)

No 8:00AM Worship

No Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Joyful Noise Offering:

Atlantic City Rescue Mission

Annual Congregational Meeting

MONDAY 2/3/25

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 2/4/25

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 2/5/25

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 2/6/25

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

6:00 AA 12-Step

7:00PM AI-Anon

FRIDAY 2/7/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 2/8/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

5th Sunday of Epiphany 2/9/25

(Guest Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Eaton)

8:00AM Spoken Worship

No Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Souper Bowl of Caring:

Bring a can of soup for our

Food Pantry

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Thurs-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