

February 23, 2025

7th Sunday After Epiphany



## 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](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

**E-mail:** [office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

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 activity.**

### INTRODUCTION

*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

**PRELUDE** *Quiet Prelude II in E minor* from Three Liturgical Preludes  
by George Oldroyd

*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** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* **ELW #835**  
VERSES 1, 2, & 3

### **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

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY (The Prayer of St. Frances)**

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father 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.*

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (A story 16 chapters in the making.)**

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they



came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.  
<sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

**PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40** (*read responsively*)

- <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart’s desire.**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup>  
evil schemes.
- <sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,  
 but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.  
<sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;  
 even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**  
<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land;  
 they will delight in abundance of peace.  
<sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;  
 you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**  
<sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;  
 you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you  
 they seek refuge.

*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 Luke the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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**

*In All Our Grief*

**ELW #615**

**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** *Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace* by Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr.

*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

### 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** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* **ELW #835**  
VERSES 4, 5, & 6

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

**POSTLUDE** *Go Forth in Faith* by Franklin Ritter

**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: Jim Ehrhardt**



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

*Special thank you to organist Dennis Cook for leading  
our music!*

**Food Pantry item of the month for February is:**

Condiments, especially Mayonnaise, Ketchup, & Mustard. They are also in need of spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, and coffee. These may be placed in the designated basket in the narthex.

**Home Reading of the Week**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

**Members of Grace:** Debbie K., Renee P., Bettie C., Diana M., Bruce H., Bonnie C., Ruth K., Lois R., Barry L., Don B., Bob G., John S., Brenda T., Family of Chris D., Bob K., Ruth B., Scott B, John N., Linda S.

**Our family and friends:** Alex, Jeff, Tad, Skip (Ruth T.), Ric, Jeanne, Cody, Logan (Ruth B.), Marilyn (June J.), Catherine, Ana, Sal, Ronna, Nadine (Corinne R.), Carrie (Ray H.), Sue (Carol L.), Linda, Dana (Edna C. & Patty D.), Bruce (Brenda T.), Jody M. (Mary Ann G.), Karen H. (Mary G.), Tyler, Megan (Carol G.), Michael, Jim (Meg L.), Bridget K. & Patrick, George M.

**Those serving our country:** Matthew Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN, Liam Johnson, USN

**The Shores at Wesley Manor:** Eleanore Guire

*Please notify the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list.*

*Please join us for fellowship sponsored by the  
Support Committee following worship.*

### Ash Wednesday

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Ocean City:**

12:00 PM Bible Study and 1:00 PM Worship & Imposition of Ashes

### **Grace Lutheran Church:**

6:15 PM: Bread & Broth - Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

7:00 PM: Worship & Imposition of Ashes

### Bread & Broth & Worship

6:00 PM Thursday evenings throughout Lent at Grace & St. John's.

See insert for details.

Sign-up sheet will be in the narthex and in the office for the dates  
we are hosting.

**Save the Date: Friday, March 14**

**Luck of the Irish Game Night!**

**Details to follow.**



# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## February 23, 2025—March 2, 2025

### 7th Sunday of Epiphany 2/23/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Fellowship Sponsored by Support Committee**

### MONDAY 2/24/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
5:45PM Heather Croft HOA  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 2/25/25

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

### WEDNESDAY 2/26/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
6:00PM AA Book Study  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 2/27/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 AA 12-Step  
7:00PM Al-Anon

### **7:00PM Facilities Meeting**

### FRIDAY 2/28/25

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

### SATURDAY 3/1/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### Transfiguration of Our Lord 3/2/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Joyful Noise Offering: Friends of Jean Webster (Sister Jean's Kitchen)**

### **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