

March 9, 2025

1st Sunday in Lent



## 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!**

### INTRODUCTION

*These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

### PRELUDE

*I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*

by Raymond Henry

*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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Compassionate one, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. Pause for reflection.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. Pause for reflection.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. Pause for reflection.**

**Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN***Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land*

ELW #333

**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**ELW (*front*) #138**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

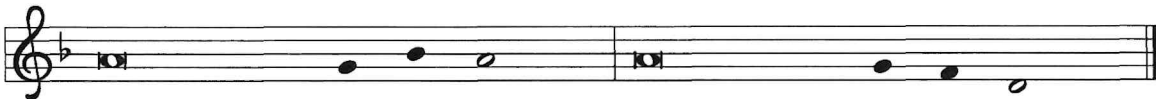
O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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.*

**PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16**

- <sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,  
 who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup> you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,  
 my God in whom I | put my trust.”  
<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,  
 and the Most High your | habitation,  
<sup>10</sup> no evil | will befall you,  
 nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.

- <sup>11</sup> For God will give the angels charge<sup>1</sup> over you,  
to guard you in<sup>1</sup> all your ways.
- <sup>12</sup> **Upon their hands they will<sup>1</sup> bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot a-<sup>1</sup>gainst a stone.**
- <sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion<sup>1</sup> cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion<sup>1</sup> and the serpent.
- <sup>14</sup> **I will deliver those who<sup>1</sup> cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they<sup>1</sup> know my name.**
- <sup>15</sup> They will call me, and I will<sup>1</sup> answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and<sup>1</sup> honor them.
- <sup>16</sup> **With long life will I<sup>1</sup> satisfy them,  
and show them<sup>1</sup> my salvation.**

### **READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land

flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

## GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

*After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God,

command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,<sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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**

*Oh, Love, How Deep*  
(VERSES 1-4)

**ELW #322**

**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**      *Be Thou My Vision*      setting by Edward J. Tipton

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**      *Create in Me a Clean Heart*      **WOV #732**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**P:** Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "God, in your mercy," please respond with "receive our prayer."*

**P:** Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*ELW (front) #144*

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*ELW (front) #144*

**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**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

<b>COMMUNION HYMN</b>	<i>Lamb of God</i>	<b>ELW (front) #146</b>
<b>COMMUNION HYMNS</b>	<i>I Want Jesus to Walk With Me</i>	<b>ELW #325</b>
	<i>When Peace Like a River</i>	<b>ELW #785</b>

### **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**

**Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*



**SENDING****BLESSING**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Oh, Love, How Deep*  
(VERSES 5-7)

ELW #322

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Agincourt*

by John Dunstable

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**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**

**Food Pantry item of the month for March is: Spaghetti Sauce.** These may be placed in the designated basket in the narthex.

**Home Reading of the Week****Romans 10:8b-13**

<sup>8b</sup> “The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”  
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

## **Bread and Broth Supper throughout Lent**

**Join us Thursdays at 6:00PM**

*This Thursday will be hosted at St. John Lutheran Church*

*1001 Central Avenue in Ocean City*



A short worship service will follow starting around 6:30. Coming a bit late? Eat as we worship. Come and be blessed!

**March 20 and April 3 will be hosted here at Grace.**

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.

**March 13, 27, and April 10 will be hosted at St. John's in Ocean City and they will provide supper.**

The Memorial Service for Bob Grant, Sr. is Thursday, March 13 here at Grace. There will be a visitation at 10:30 AM followed by the service at 11:00 AM.

## **Luck of the Irish Game Night & Fund Raiser for our Food Pantry!**



**Friday, March 14 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall**

Irish Potluck Dinner, Bingo, and other fun games!

Please sign up in the narthex. Be ready to get your game on and share your green cash or donations for Grace Place Food Pantry!

## 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., John S., Brenda T., Family of Chris D., Bob K., Ruth B., Scott B, John N., Linda S., Family & Friends of Bob Grant, Sr.

**Our family and friends:** Alex, Jeff, Skip, Family & Friends of Tad, Donna, Tom (Ruth T.), Ric, Jeanne, Cody, Logan (Ruth B.), Marilyn (June J.), Catherine, Ana, Sal, Ronna, Nadine, Todd (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.), Francis M. (Jane T.), Pastor Althea's father Cal S., Bridget K. & Patrick, George M.

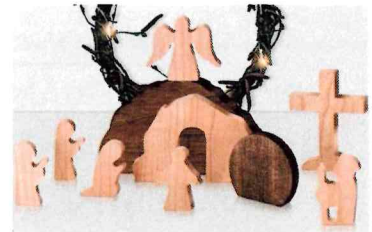
**Those serving our country:** Matthew Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN, Liam Johnson, USN

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

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

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:

- Egg Hunt & Holy Story– Palm Sunday 4/13, 3:00 PM  
*Hosted by Ellie Hull & Pastor Wendolyn*
- Can any woodworkers create an Easter Creche like this one? *If so, please contact Pastor Wendolyn.*
- Sunday School Re-Start “tester”- Sundays 4/27-6/1  
*Seeking teachers, aides, and people to invite families. Contact Miranda Bilello 609-377-8920*
- Anyone interested in organizing and picking up Easter Flowers?  
*Contact Corinne in the office.*
- Volunteers needed to host Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 23 and April 27.
- Volunteers needed for Tik Tok (Table cloths & Keurig/drinks) set-up and clean-up for Coffee Hours.



# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## March 9, 2025—March 16, 2025

### 1st Sunday in Lent 3/9/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
 8:45AM Adult Forum  
 10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Fellowship: Sponsored by  
 the Bilello Family**

### MONDAY 3/10/25

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

### TUESDAY 3/11/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
**12:00PM WELCA**  
 6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 3/12/25

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

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

### THURSDAY 3/13/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
**10:30AM Visitation & 11:00 AM  
 Memorial Service for  
 Bob Grant, Sr.**  
 12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
 6:00 AA 12-Step  
 7:00PM Al-Anon  
 7:00PM Sisters of Hope  
 Narcotics Anonymous  
**6:00PM Bread & Broth at  
 St. John Lutheran Church, Ocean City**  
 7:00PM Antique Collector's Club

### FRIDAY 3/14/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers  
**6:00PM Luck of the Irish Game Night**  
 7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 3/15/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers  
**2nd Sunday in Lent 3/16/25**  
 8:00AM Spoken Worship  
 8:45AM Adult Forum  
 10:15AM Traditional Worship