

March 23, 2025

3rd 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

*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

### WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

### PRELUDE

*Come to the Waters* by G. F. Handel  
Duet: Andrew Ehrhardt & Scott Breiner

*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.*

**O Lord, our God, 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.***

**O Lord, our God, We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. *Pause for reflection.***

**O Lord, our God, We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. *Pause for reflection.***

**O Lord, our God, 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***Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

ELW #756

**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**

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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 63:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eager-<sup>1</sup>ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary  
land where there<sup>1</sup> is no water.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your<sup>1</sup> holy place,  
that I might behold your power<sup>1</sup> and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than<sup>1</sup> life itself;  
my lips shall<sup>1</sup> give you praise.

<sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long<sup>1</sup> as I live  
and lift up my hands<sup>1</sup> in your name.**

<sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the rich-<sup>1</sup> est of foods,  
 and my mouth praises you with<sup>1</sup> joyful lips,  
<sup>6</sup> **when I remember you up-<sup>1</sup> on my bed,**  
**and meditate on you in<sup>1</sup> the night watches.**  
<sup>7</sup> For you have<sup>1</sup> been my helper,  
 and under the shadow of your wings I<sup>1</sup> will rejoice.  
<sup>8</sup> **My whole being<sup>1</sup> clings to you;**  
**your right hand<sup>1</sup> holds me fast.**

### **READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,<sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,<sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food,<sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.<sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.<sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play."<sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.<sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.<sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.<sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.<sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.<sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?<sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.<sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’

<sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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** *As the Deer Runs to the River*

**ELW #331**

## 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

*Seek Ye The Lord*

by J. V. Roberts

Tenor: Charles Bowden

*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.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Lamb of God*

*ELW (front) #146*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*I Am the Bread of Life*

*ELW #485*

*Rock of Ages*

*ELW #623*

**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**

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

**ELW #726**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

*Rhythmic Trumpet*

by Seth Bingham

**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 La Spina**



## Bread and Broth Supper throughout Lent

Join us Thursdays at 6:00PM



*This Thursday will be hosted at St. John  
(1001 Central Ave. Ocean City).*

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

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

### 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 609-470-1882*
- Volunteers needed for Tik Tok (Table cloths & Keurig/drinks) set-up and clean-up for Coffee Hours.



### *New Tradition for Palm Sunday*

Palms will be available, but everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a leaf /branch from a plant from home.

**The Atlantic County Roundtable of Historical Organizations Presents:  
HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN OLDE ATLANTIC COUNTY**

**Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 PM**

at the Atlantic City Historical Society  
907 Shore Road, Somers Point

And again on:

**Sunday April 6 at 2:00 PM**

Please see the flier in the narthex for details.

**We are accepting donations of 1st Aid Products for Bridge of Peace  
Lutheran Church & Food Pantry in Camden, NJ.**

There will be a designated place for these in the narthex.

**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

**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.*

**Home Reading of the Week**  
**Isaiah 55:1-9**

- <sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
    come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
    come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
    without money and without price.
- <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
    and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
    and delight yourselves in rich food.
- <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
    listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
    my steadfast, sure love for David.
- <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
    a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
    and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
    for he has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
    call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
    and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
    and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
    nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
    so are my ways higher than your ways  
    and my thoughts than your thoughts.

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## March 23, 2025—March 30, 2025

### 2st Sunday in Lent 3/23/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship

### MONDAY 3/24/25

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

### TUESDAY 3/25/25

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

### WEDNESDAY 3/26/25

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

### THURSDAY 3/27/25

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

### **6:00PM Bread & Broth at St. John**

7:00PM Al-Anon  
7:00PM Sisters of Hope  
Narcotics Anonymous

### FRIDAY 3/28/25

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

### SATURDAY 3/29/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### 3rd Sunday in Lent 3/30/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship

## 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

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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