

April 6, 2025

5th Sunday in Lent



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

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

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* by Robert Buckley Farlee

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*As We Gather at Your Table*

ELW #522

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.**

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

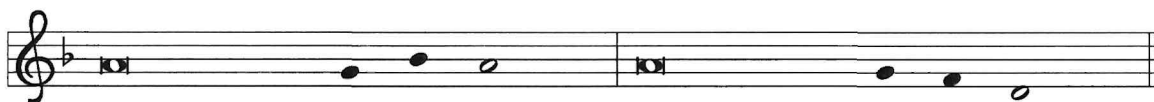
Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with 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 126

¹ When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with |**
shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great |
things for them.”

³ The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴ **Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,**
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

⁵ Those who ¹ sowed with tears
will reap with ¹ songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carry-¹ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder-¹ing their sheaves.**

READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 John the 12th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* **ELW #596****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 April is Habitat for Humanity.***OFFERING****OFFERTORY** *The Loving Lamb* by Jennifer Stammers
*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

Lamb of God

ELW #336

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

ELW #337

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, That I Had a Thousand Voices* **ELW #833**
Verses 1, 3, & 5 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 WOMEN

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

POSTLUDE *A Trumpet Chorale* by Van Denman Thompson

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: Edna Cordery

The candles, wine, bulletins, and music sponsor this week is:
Bob Klingensmith, in memory of Reverend Robert C. and Jane B.
Klingensmith on their anniversary.

Bread and Broth Supper throughout Lent

Join us Thursdays at 6:00PM

*This Thursday, April 10 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!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:

- Egg Hunt & Holy Story– Palm Sunday 4/13, 3:00 PM
Hosted by Ellie Hull & Pastor Wendolyn

We will have Sunday School here at Grace during our 10:15 AM worship during Easter season April 27 - June 1. We are in need of volunteers. Please visit this link to sign up to help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CAEAE2AA6F9C52-55863831-7weeks>

Please spread the word and invite any young people you know!

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**

Today at 2:00 PM

Please see the flier in the narthex for details.

As a devotional act for Good Friday, 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.

Home Reading of the Week
Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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.), Family & Friends of 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.



19th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER
for Shore Memorial NICU
will be hosted by WELCA and the Stitches of
Grace Lutheran Church
along with our brothers and sisters from
Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon



Friday, May 16th at 12:00 PM

Lunch will be served for Shore Medical Center nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T),
diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Sunday, May 11th

Please R.S.V.P. to Roberta Blumenthal 609-927-1654 or the
Church Office 609-927-3082.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13

8:00 AM Worship & 10:15 AM Worship

4:00 PM Egg Hunt & Holy Story

Maundy Thursday, April 17

12:00 PM Worship Service & Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 18

7:00 PM "The Weeping Tree" Cantata with
Congregation Participation

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:00 AM & 10:15 AM Worship



HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

April 6, 2025–April 13, 2025

5th Sunday in Lent 4/6//25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
Joyful Noise Offering:
Habitat for Humanity

MONDAY 4/7//25

5:45PM Heather Croft HOA
6:30PM Grief Support Group
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 4/8/25

12:00PM WELCA
 6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 4/9/25

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
 6:00PM AA Book Study
 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Support Meeting

THURSDAY 4/10/25

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
 7:00 PM Antique Collector's Club

FRIDAY 4/11/25

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

SATURDAY 4/12/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

Palm Sunday 4/13/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
Coffee Hour -Sponsored by Council
4:00PM Egg Hunt & Holy Story

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