

February 1, 2026

Epiphany 4



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

E-mail: office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

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.*

*Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Andante Religioso

by Franz Liszt

Please stand as you are able.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

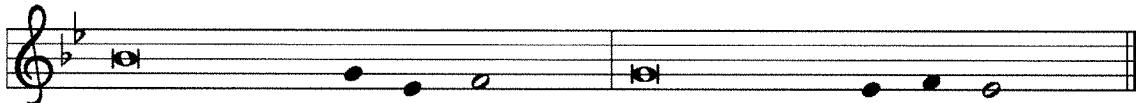
Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Please be seated.

PSALM 15



¹ LORD, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear
the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their
word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹
gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

[St. Paul writes]¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Alleluia!

P: Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.***THE APOSTLE'S 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 SPCA of Atlantic County.***OFFERING****OFFERTORY***Simple Gifts*

arr. by Robert Lehman

*Please stand as you are able.***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* WOV #732**OFFERING PRAYER****God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed your people with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***Please be seated.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Merciful God," please respond with "**Receive our prayer.**"*

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION (*Setting Five*)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER ELW S163

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* ELW S164

COMMUNION HYMN *O God of Mercy, God of Light* ELW #714

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 container on your way to return to your pew. 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.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

To Be Your Presence

ELW #546

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
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 flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal, in celebration of Sara and John's 1st Anniversary, from Mom, with love!



The candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor is: Gay Rowland, in honor of her son's 44th birthday!

***Please stay for our Annual Congregational Meeting
immediately following worship today!***

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

February 1, 2026-February 8, 2026

4th Sunday of Epiphany 2/1/26

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Joyful Noise Offering:

SPCA of Atlantic County

Annual Congregational Meeting

Following Worship

MONDAY 2/2/26

6:30PM Grief Support Group

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 2/3/26

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 2/4/26

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 2/5/26

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir

6:00 AA 12-Step

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 2/6/26

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 2/7/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

5th Sunday of Epiphany 2/8/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Coffee Hour/Fellowship

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon- 10:00-3:00

Corinne will be out of the office Tuesday – Friday.

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