

February 8, 2026

Epiphany 5



## 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.org](mailto: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**

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

### **WELCOME**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

### **PRELUDE**

*Andante Grazioso*

by Henry Smart

*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**

*Gather Us In*

**ELW #532**

Verses 1 & 4 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 3 MEN

**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 S156

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

ELW S159

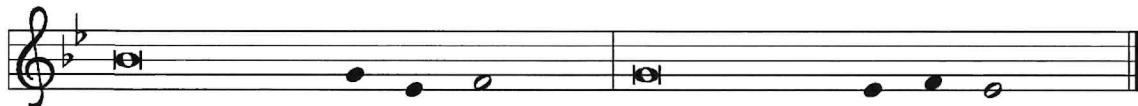
**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through 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 112:1-10**

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and have great delight in <sup>1</sup> God's commandments!
- <sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty <sup>1</sup> in the land;  
the generation of the upright <sup>1</sup> will be blessed.
- <sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be <sup>1</sup> in their house,  
and their righteousness will <sup>1</sup> last forever.
- <sup>4</sup> Light shines in the darkness <sup>1</sup> for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion.
- <sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup> For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any <sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and <sup>1</sup> will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands <sup>1</sup> fast forever;

they will hold up their <sup>1</sup> head with honor.

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;**

**the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C: Alleluiah!**

**P: Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**C: You have the words of eternal life. Alleluiah!**

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

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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.*

## OFFERING

*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)**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** ELW S161

**EUCARISTIC PRAYER** ELW S162

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** ELW S162

**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** Christ, Be Our Light ELW #715

### **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**

*This Little Light of Mine*

**ELW #677**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Sortie Festivo*

by Ludwig Boslet

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!**

**Please join us for fellowship following worship in  
the Social Hall!**

**We thank all those serving in worship today:  
Worship Assistant: Sharon Ehrhardt**



**The flowers sponsors this week are: Stephen and Mary Ann  
Gring, in memory of Mary Ann's brother, Stevie Geise.**

## 2026 Church Council

**President:** Joe Martin

**Vice President:** Jim Dolan

**Secretary:** Jayne Lare

**Treasurer:** Heidi Toth

**Representatives:**

Miranda Bilello    Carol Gallagher    Diane Graham

Ellie Hull            Carol Landes       Linda Rihl

Kathy Ruffenach    Linda Savage (additional representative)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Next Sunday, February 15**, the 2026 ELCA World Hunger Lent Calendars will be available in the Church narthex, along with a Lenten Daily Devotional Guide. These will also be emailed for those of you who prefer electronic copies.

**February 18: Ash Wednesday**

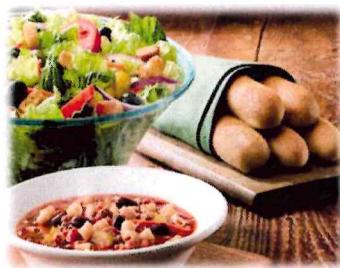
There is a sign-up sheet on a clipboard in the narthex for our Ash Wednesday Soup Supper to be held at 6:00 PM. Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will follow at 7:00 PM.

**Lent Bread & Broth & Book Study**

Thursday Evenings in the Fellowship Hall

**2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, and 3/26**

**Dinner at 6, Study 6:30-7:15**



Sign-up sheets for food contribution (soup, salad, and bread) will be in the narthex on Sundays. You may also sign up by calling the church office and letting us know what you wish to bring.

**Psalms: 3 Categories**

Based on works by Dr. Walter Bruggemann, our study will provide a weekly overview of how Psalms find God to be Here, There, and Everywhere (Oriented, Disorienting, and giving New Orientation.) We use Psalms weekly in worship, so come learn about how the Psalms bless us!

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

[<sup>9b</sup>] If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness

and your gloom be like the noonday.  
<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.]

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## February 8, 2026-February 15, 2026

### 5th Sunday of Epiphany 2/8/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Coffee Hour/Fellowship**

### MONDAY 2/9/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 2/10/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 2/11/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

6:30PM Compassionate Friends

### THURSDAY 2/12/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir

6:00 AA 12-Step

7:00 Antique Collector's Club

7:00PM Al-Anon

### FRIDAY 2/13/26

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 2/14/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### Transfiguration Sunday 2/15/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**This week:**

**Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00**

**Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00**



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