

Events This Week - March 14 - 21, 2021

Pastor Althea's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10am - 1pm

Sunday 3/14 Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
Holy Communion

Monday 3/15

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
7:00 pm - AA Meeting - Social Hall

Tuesday 3/16

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
6:30 pm - NA
7:00 pm - Council Meeting

Wednesday 3/17

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

Thursday 3/18

5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Friday 3/19

10:30 am - Grace Stitches

Saturday 3/20

Sunday 3/21 Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge
10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
Holy Communion



March 21st

Lent 5, Communion - 10:15 am

Sunday, March 21st

8:00 am Spoken Service Begins

All who are interested will gather in the Church Lounge located in the Office Wing of the building.

March 28th - Palm Sunday: 10:15 am

April 1st - Maundy Thursday: TBA

April 2nd - Good Friday: TBA

April 4th - Easter Sunday: 10:15 am

Worship services **Live**-streamed on YouTube & FaceBook



2021 Giving Envelopes

To be hand delivered

Shawn Welfield has volunteered to bring the 2021 Giving Envelopes directly to the homes of those who have been unable to pick-up their envelopes. Shawn will begin the deliveries next week. We are thankful to Shawn for his ministry.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A private funeral service was held by Pastor Althea Albright in our sanctuary on Monday, March 8th for David B. Rihl, son of Linda Rihl.

We pray God's blessing of comfort and peace upon the family as they mourn the passing of their loved one.



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021



Grace Lutheran Church

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Office: 609-927-3082 † Fax: 609-927-6672 † Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Alternate web address: www.gracelutheran.xyz
Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Music Director: Scott J. Breiner

Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

Liturgical Worship Service

Holy Communion

Welcome

Welcome to worship at Grace Lutheran Church. Everything you need to fully participate in our liturgical worship is contained in the bulletin.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to **belong** to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who **believe** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to **become** caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today—

Worship Assistant: Diana McArdle

Altar Guild:

Brenda Traa, Ruth Traa

Sound Technician:

Jim Foreman, Larry Rusiecki,

Shawn Welfield

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Servicemen and Servicewomen Serving Our Country: Members & Friends of Grace: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USMC; Sara Myers, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF

Hospitalized - or in need of healing: Ruth, David, & Ric Alburger, Mary Ellen Bartholomew, June Becker, Shirley Blankenship, Carol Campbell, Dr. Robert Carlson, Ed Carpenter, Christine Carter, Peg Cwienk, Roy Cole, Deb Connelly, Emile DeLong, Tad Dildilian, Kimberly Frawley, Ed Gannon, Jeanne Gehring, Chris Hinnant, Bob & Dona-Lee Hughes, Pat Johnson, Darryl Kashey, Terry Kearney, Carol Traa Keates, Nancy Keirse, Darrell Kopp, Lora, Judith & Roger Landis, Bob Loper, Susan Marich, Quinn Meldrum, Anne Moore, Tom Ostrander, Tommy Parker, Renee Pugliese, LouAnn Rest, Indigo Rose, Alan Sisson, Dana Sisson, Judy Toth, Bob Traa, Grace DiGenni Traa, Carol-Ann Tracy, George Walters, Joann Wehrhan, Joan Wisdom, & Lucy Dildilian Yannis

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Dot Crawshaw, Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Rehab@Shores of Wesley Manor: Lois Rahme

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

SENDING HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW # 339

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. **Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

***SENDING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Lord God, we are living in difficult times. As we have worshipped with you this day, you have refreshed us with your Word and given us new hope. Send us into the next week as witnesses of your Gospel message, that we may be light for the world, as we continue through this season of Lent. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

May the Almighty God bless you and keep you.
May Christ's mercy and forgiveness remind you to go and sin no more.
May the Spirit guide you and keep you safe from evil in the world.
And finally, may God's love bring you comfort and † give you hope. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW # 339

Please be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE

Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben

By Flor Peeters

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in the humbleness of the Lenten season and serve God with kindness!

Thanks be to God!

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

**Please stand as you are able—* Congregation responses in bold print.*

Gathering

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

New Britain

By Philip Gehring

Please stand as you are able.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

As we come before God this Lent, let us pray together.

Almighty God, you know us from before we are born. You are always with us in our past, present, and future. You know our joys and our flaws. You know our outward successes and our innermost failings.

We come before you now wanting to spend time with you and worship you.

Forgive us when we stray in our relationship with you.

Bring us closer to your Spirit once again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

We confess that we have not always stayed close to you, God.

We do not always trust in your path for our lives.

We do not always follow your call for us.

We let worry and fear consume us.

We do not always treat our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may return to you again and glorify your holy name in all that we say and do. Amen.

God is merciful and just. Christ was crucified and died for us and for all our sins.

As a minister of the church of Christ, I declare to you that God forgives all of your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

God never leaves us or forsakes us.

Return to the Lord your God with a new spirit, ready to accept God's gift of grace. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound **ELW # 779**
Verses 1, 3, & 5, All; Verse 2, Men; Verse 4, Women

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour, I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the
Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Meal

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.... **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

Word

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”

⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

...by grace
you
have
been
saved...
Ephesians 2:5
NRSV

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. All-Knowing God,

You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we are able to give back some of our blessings to you. You have changed our lives forever with your mercy and grace. Give us opportunities to change the lives of others with your Gospel message. Bless our congregation, this community, and everything we give back to you to continue your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Leader: You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn (*especially we name*)... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

God So Loved the World

by John Stainer

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

**PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good, / for God's mercy en - | dures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took re - | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all man - | ner of food / and drew near | to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them / and rescued them | from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving / and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

Please stand as you are able.

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.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

Please be seated

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

*HYMN OF THE DAY Salvation Unto Us Has Come ELW # 590

Verses 1, 3, & 5, All; Verse 2, Men; Verse 4, Woman

1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and fa - vor;
2 What God did in the law de - mand no one could keep un - fail - ing;
3 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made and brought to us sal - va - tion,
4 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un - ceas - ing;

good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and save us
great woe a - rose on ev - 'ry hand, and sin grew all - pre -
we will re - joice, we will be glad and build on this foun -
and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and hope in -

nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who did for
vail - ing. Be - cause the law must be ful - filled, Christ came as
da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear Lord, I plead; bap - tized in -
creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works serve our

all the world a - tone, our on - ly me - di - a - tor.
God in mer - cy willed, for us the law o - bey - ing.
to your death, I'm freed; your life is mine for - ev - er.
neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.

- 5 Your kingdom come, your will be done
in this world as in heaven;
give bread for each new day begun;
our sins be all forgiven,
as we forgive what others do;
in ev'ry trial see us through;
from evil save us. Amen.