

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2022

Lord,
teach us
to pray

LUKE 11:1



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

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright **Music Director:** Scott J. Breiner

Church Secretary: Michelle Allen

~Welcome~

Welcome to worship at Grace Lutheran Church. Everything you need to fully participate in our liturgical worship is contained in the bulletin. If you are visiting our church for the first time or have been away, welcome. Please sign our visitors book in the Narthex (lobby) or fill out a connection card located in the seating areas of the sanctuary.

- ✦ 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.

We appreciate those serving in worship today...

Worship Leader/Assistant: Kevin Thomas

Altar Guild: Brenda, Clare, Marleigh, Nancy and Ruth

~In Our Hearts and Prayers~

If you notice someone missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea by phone, Facebook, email or by calling the church office so we can list their name in prayer next service.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Jim C., Jon N., Ruth T., Debbie K., Carol F., Mike D., Mike L., Kathy K., and Carole T.

Family & Friends: Donna W., Gage, Donna L., Diana S., Virginia, Elliot, Pastor Inge, Kristi, Amanda & Cat (*Pastor Althea*); Payton (*Joyce Bianco*); Stephanie (*Roberta Blumenthal*) Deb, Glen, Marilyn & Jeanne (*Bowdens*); Ron, Bonnie & Bob (*Susan Johnson*); Bob & Kim (*Jim Foreman*) Annmarie, Michael Ann (*June Jordan*); Shirley & Carl (*Debbie Kleuser*); Bob & Lou (*Dale Kredatus*); Jim & Vicki (*Meg La Spina*); Janice and Betty (*Diana McArdle*) Bernadette, Lou, Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, Donny, Carol (*Renee Pugliese*); Catherine & Sal (*Corinne Rhodes*); Karen (*Sue Robinson*); Bob T. (*Brenda Traa*) Dottie Currie (*Deborah Walker*); Jeff & Amanda (*Welfields*); Eileen, Marie, Beverlee and Darlene; Mary Anna & Frank. **Those serving our country:** Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF. **At Home:** Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, Lois Rahme & Skip Uhrmann **Shores at Wesley Manor:** Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble.

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore.

*All text in **bold** is to be read aloud*
Please take part in our service by referring to the
*Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnals (**ELW**)*

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

WELCOME

Corinne Rhodes

PRELUDE

Devotion

by John Ness Beck

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN*What a Friend We Have in Jesus***ELW #742****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.**

Please turn to the front section of the red ELW hymnals.

KYRIE**ELW p. 203****HYMN OF PRAISE****ELW p. 204****PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve.

Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD**FIRST READING:** Genesis 18:20-32

Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away

the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

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

PSALM:138

(Spoken)

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**

³When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

**⁶The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right |
hand shall save me.

**⁸You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works | of your hands.**

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

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

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 205

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

¹Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'

⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he

is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

Please be seated

FAITH MESSAGE

Corinne Rhodes

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God of Love, O King of Peace

ELW #749

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 power of 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.**

OFFERING**OFFERTORY***Amazing Grace*

John Ness Beck

*Please stand as you are able***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS***Create in Me a Clean Heart***WOV#732****OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*Please be seated***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Corinne: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

Brief silence

Kevin: Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Kevin: Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect our water sources like the Atlantic Ocean, the Great Egg Harbor Bay area, and strengthen our U. S. Coast Guard. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Kevin: Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Corinne: Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer *especially those we name aloud or those we name in our hearts.*
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Kevin: Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for this congregation. Bless the prayer and fellowship ministries in this place. Call us together in times of praise and blessing, trouble and sorrow, in your holy name.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Corinne: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

God of grace, through your word and our fellowship with one another you have fed us and refreshed us with your mercy and love. Send us forth now to be your hands and feet in the world that we may spread your Good News and love. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

May the God of peace, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

ELW #754

POSTLUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. H. R. Hunsicker

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

DEDICATIONS

In honor of Pam LaSpina's 67th Birthday,

Love,

Michael, Meg, Alicia, Joe, Joseph, Juliana and James

Pastor Althea is away today...

We are thankful that you are here to worship with us today. Pastor Althea is off today. She will be here and available the rest of this week. If you have any pastoral care needs, feel free to contact her at 484-345-0399.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

July 24, 2022 - July 31, 2022

Sunday, July 24, 2022

10:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
3:30 pm AA Group

Monday, July 25, 2022

9:00 am - 11:30 am Food Pantry
10:00 am South Shore Pericope Meeting
7:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

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

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

9:00 am - 11:30 am Food Pantry
11:30 am Bayside Duplicate Bridge
7:00 pm NA Meeting

Thursday, July 28, 2022

9:00 am - 11:30 am Food Pantry
5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm AA Meeting (12 Steps)
7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, July 29, 2022

10:30 am Grace Stitchers
7:30 pm AA Meeting

Saturday, July 30, 2022

No Events Today

Sunday, July 31, 2022

8:00 am Spoken Service
10:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
PROPHET SERIES-ESTHER
3:30 pm AA Group

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Pastor Althea is available by appointment **609-927-3082**



Don't forget to sign up for the Yard Sale
Saturday, September 17, 2022 8 am - 1pm

We also need volunteers for our Bake Sale
(for more details, see poster and sign up
sheets in the Narthex (lobby))