



Perhaps  
you were  
created  
for such a  
time as  
this...

## ✠GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH✠

(Shore Road at Dawes and Meyran Avenue)

**11 E Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244**

**Office:** 609-927-3082 **Fax:** 609-927-6672

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

**Church Secretary:** Michelle Allen

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 thank those serving in worship today...**

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

**Worship Assistant/Leader:** Shirley Blankenship

**~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 lift 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., Carole T., and friends and family of Kathy K., friends and family of Lois R.

**Family & Friends:** Donna W., Gage, Donna L., Diana S., Virginia, Elliot, Pastor Inge, Kristi and Lily, Amanda , Cat & Diana S. (*Pastor Althea*); Payton (*Joyce Bianco*); Deb, Glen, Marilyn, Jeanne, Mc Cowan Family (*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 and Anna (*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 Condcliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann **Shores at Wesley Manor:** Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble **Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore

# EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

3

*All text in **bold** is to be read aloud (**All respond**)*

*Please take part in our service by referring to the  
red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnals (**ELW**)*



**WELCOME**

Rev. Althea Albright

**PRELUDE**

*Canon*

*by Johann Pachelbel*

*Please stand if you are able*

## **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 of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

**Most 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 **4**  
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**      *Glorious Things of You are Spoken*      **ELW #647**

## **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**

*Please be seated*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### **WORD - ESTHER**

#### **FIRST READING: ESTHER-CHAPTERS 9 AND 10**

*A brave Queen Esther is called by God to risk her life to save the Jews in her Kingdom.*

That very day the number of those killed in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king. The king said to Queen Esther, “In the citadel of Susa the Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred people and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king’s provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be granted you. And what further is your request? It shall be fulfilled.” Esther said, “If it pleases the king, let

the Jews who are in Susa be allowed tomorrow also to do according to 5  
this day's edict, and let the ten sons of Haman be hung on the pole." So  
the king commanded this to be done; a decree was issued in Susa, and the  
ten sons of Haman were hung. The Jews who were in Susa gathered also  
on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they killed three hundred  
persons in Susa, but they did not touch the plunder.

Now the other Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered  
to defend their lives and gained relief from their enemies and killed seventy  
-five thousand of those who hated them, but they laid no hands on the  
plunder. This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the  
fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness.

But the Jews who were in Susa gathered on the thirteenth day and  
on the fourteenth and rested on the fifteenth day, making that a day of  
feasting and gladness. Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in  
the open towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for  
gladness and feasting, a holiday on which they send gifts of food to one  
another. Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews  
who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,  
enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month  
Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the  
days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month  
that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from  
mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and  
gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the  
poor. So the Jews adopted as a custom what they had begun to do, as  
Mordecai had written to them. Queen Esther daughter of Abihail, along  
with Mordecai the Jew, gave full written authority confirming this second  
letter about Purim. Letters were sent wishing peace and security to all the

Jews, to the onehundred twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, and giving orders that these days of Purim should be observed at their appointed seasons, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther enjoined on the Jews, just as they had laid down for themselves and for their descendants regulations concerning their fasts and their lamentations. The command of Esther fixed these practices of Purim, and it was recorded in writing. 6

King Ahasuerus laid tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea. All the acts of his power and might, and the full account of the high honor of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the annals of the kings of Media and Persia? For Mordecai the Jew was next in rank to King Ahasuerus, and he was powerful among the Jews and popular with his many kindred, for he sought the good of his people and interceded for the welfare of all his descendants.

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

## **SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:1-11

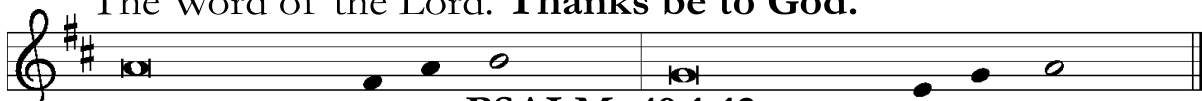
*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>These

are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup>But **7** now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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



## PSALM: 49:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Hear this, | all you peoples give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,  
<sup>2</sup>**you of high de- | gree and low, rich and | poor together.**

<sup>3</sup>My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

<sup>4</sup>I will incline my ear | to a proverb and set forth my riddle up- |  
on the harp.

<sup>5</sup>Why should I be afraid in | evil days, when the wickedness of those at my  
| heels surrounds me,

6the wickedness of those who put their trust in | their own prowess,  
and boast of | their great riches?

7One can never re- | deem another, or give to God the ransom for  
an- | other's life;

8for the ransom of a life is so great that there  
would never be enough to pay it,

in order to live forev- | er and ever and never | see the grave.

<sup>10</sup> For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they

*Continued on next page...*

**perish and leave their wealth to those who come | after them. 8**

<sup>11</sup>Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to | generation, though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.

<sup>12</sup>**Even though honored, they cannot | live forever; they are like the | beasts that perish.**

*Please stand as you are able*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW p. 205**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twelfth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup>Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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



**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Althea Albright

**SERMON**

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Jesus Priceless Treasure*

**ELW #775**

**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**

*Be Thou My Vision*

*by Gordon Young*

*Tenor soloist: Charles Bowden*

*Please stand as you are able*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**WOV#732**

**OFFERING PRAYER** *Pastor Althea will now bless our offering.*

**10**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Pastor:* Trusting in God's extraordinary love...

*Leader/Pastor:* O God, you are... Merciful God,

***Response to each petition:* receive our prayer.**

*Pastor:* Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God...

***All respond:* Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**ELW p. 206**

*Pastor Althea:* It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their  
unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD**

**ELW p.207**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*Pastor Althea:* Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...May all honor and glory be  
yours O Lord, now and forever. **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.**

**COMMUNION HYMN***Lamb of God***ELW p.208****DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**SENDING****SENDING PRAYER**

The God of peace, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able*

**BLESSING**

The God of peace, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING***God of Grace and God of Glory***ELW #705****POSTLUDE**

*Jesu, Meine Fruede      by Johann Gottfried Walther*  
*(variation #8)*

**DISMISSAL**

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

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

12

JULY 31, 2022 - AUGUST 7, 2022

### Sunday July 31, 2022

8:00 am Spoken Service  
10:15 am Liturgical Worship Service  
PROPHET SERIES— ESTHER  
4:00 pm AA Group

### Monday August 1, 2022

**FOOD PANTRY CLOSED**

7:00 pm AA Meeting

### Tuesday August 2, 2022

**FOOD PANTRY CLOSED**

6:30 pm NA Meeting

### Wednesday August 3, 2022

**FOOD PANTRY CLOSED**

11:30 Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
7:00 pm NA Meeting

### Thursday August 4, 2022

**FOOD PANTRY CLOSED**

5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 pm AA Meeting 12 Steps

### Friday August 5, 2022

10:00 am Grace Stitches  
7:30 pm AA Meeting

### Saturday August 6, 2022

*No events today*

### Sunday August 7, 2022

8:00 am Spoken Service  
10:15 am Liturgical Worship Service  
4:00 pm AA Group

**GRACE PLACE FOOD PANTRY  
WILL BE OPEN NEXT WEEK  
AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>**

The sanctuary flowers for today's service are  
dedicated to Laura & Doug Sitzman for their  
18th Wedding Anniversary. Love, Mom

