


OCTOBER 16, 2022

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Always  
Pray  
and  
never  
GIVE UP  
Luke 18:1

## 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](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

**Email:** [office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

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

**Church Secretary:** Michelle Allen

**Thank you to all serving in worship today:**

**Reader:** Corinne R. **Altar Guild:** Brenda T., Clare B., Marliegh & Ruth B.

*We welcome you to worship with us. Everything you need to follow along is in this bulletin.*

*All text in **BOLD** is read by the congregation.*

*Our hymn selections are from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal and insert.*

*Please record attendance & communion with our connection cards.*

*Thank you for joining us to worship our Lord together!*

## GATHERING

*Worship is the work of God's people. We worship in response to God's love and care for us.  
We remember the sacrifice given for us on the cross so that we may know mercy, love, and grace.*

## WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

## PRELUDE

*Was Gott Tut, Das Ist Wohlgetan*

by Johann Peter Kellner

*Please stand as you are able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God, our Creator, we come before you, knowing that you are always with us. You know us inside and out and all the places where we need to grow as people of God. Renew and refresh us so that we may feel your love, be ready to serve you, and love our neighbors. **Amen.**

Let us come before God with all of our imperfections ready to hear God's call for our lives.

Merciful and Forgiving God, **we acknowledge that we are not perfect. We turn away from you and we do not always follow your path. We are not always patient, or kind to our neighbors. We seek your will and we ask that you have mercy on us. Forgive us for what we have not done and for the things we have done which have hurt others. Renew our courage and strength so that we do not lose heart in following you. Lead us and refresh us so that you may show us a new vision for loving one another and for our ministry together. Amen.**

Christ became human to know us and love us. God is with us through all of life's joys and frustrations. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, I declare that you are forgiven all of your sins, in the name of Almighty God, Son, and Holy Spirit. May our God, uplift you and strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that you will find eternal love and everlasting life.

## APOSTOLIC 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

*Lord Have Mercy**see page 1 of insert*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Glory to God**see page 2 of insert*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*Please be seated*

## WORD

*We believe that the Spirit can speak to our hearts in many ways. God works in and through both the read and spoken word of God.*

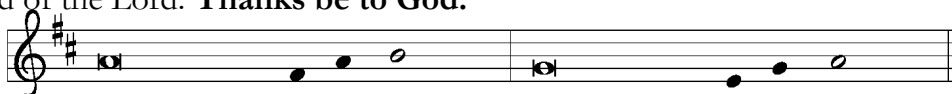
## FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

*Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."*

3 <sup>22</sup>The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

## PSALM: 121



*My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.*

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills; from where is my | help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD, the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you  
| fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you; the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

*The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.*

<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup>proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>4</sup>*Please stand as you are able*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the eighteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Please be seated*

**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

*Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

<sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Rev. Althea Albright**

*Pastor Althea will now dismiss the children to Sunday School. They will return for communion.*

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Althea Albright**

*Please stand as you are able*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*O Word of God Incarnate*

**ELW# 514**

## **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 o 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.**

## **JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING**

*Special monthly coin offering for local or national charity. For the month of October we have designated: Seaman's Church Institute, for more information: [www.seamenschurch.org](http://www.seamenschurch.org)*

5  
**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*

by Leo Sowerby

*Please stand as you are able*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**    *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*see page 3 of insert*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.*

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. You are our Creator and bless us with all that we have. We are thankful for many things in our lives. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need. Bless our time, our talents, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Pastor:* In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

*Leader:* For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Pastor:* For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken. We especially pray for all those we name now or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Pastor:* With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*God reminds us of his faithfulness to us in Holy Communion. We are given a tangible sign of God's promises of forgiveness and love.*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory.

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:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*see page 4 of insert*

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite us all, with your body and blood.

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**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the table of Christ. Come and be fed. **Amen.**

## 7 COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

*see page 1 of insert*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth now as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

## SENDING

*We are blessed to remind us that God goes with us into the world. Jesus said he will never leave or forsake us. God is with us always even when we face earthly challenges.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able*

## SENDING HYMN

*If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

**ELW# 769**

## POSTLUDE

*Was Gott Tut, Das Ist Wohlgetam*

*by Johann Gottfried*

## BLESSING

*We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.*

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. And may the Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.** Go out into the world with confidence knowing that God is Creator of all. Remember Christ's love for you, and the Holy Spirit will be with you always... Wherever you go.

## DISMISSAL

*Leader:* Go and be God's hands and feet in the world! **Thanks be to God!**  
God and live as beloved children of God.

Dedication:

Today's flowers are dedicated by  
Roberta Blumenthal...

Thanking God for  
blessings given.



## EVENTS THIS WEEK

### OCTOBER 16, 2022 - OCTOBER 23, 2022

#### Sunday October 16, 2022

8:00 am Spoken Word

8:45 Adult Sunday School

10:15 am Liturgical Word

#### **Children's Sunday school**

*Noisy Offering-Seaman's Church Inst.*

4:00 pm AA Group

#### Monday October 17, 2022

**9:00 am - 11:30 am Food Pantry**

10:00 am South Shore Cluster Pericope

7:00 pm AA Group

#### Tuesday October 18, 2022

**9:00 am - 11:30 am Food Pantry**

6:30 pm NA Meeting

7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

#### Wednesday October 19, 2022

**9:00 am - 11:30 am Food Pantry**

11:30 am Bayside Duplicate Bridge

7:00 pm NA Meeting

#### Thursday October 20, 2022

**9:00 am - 11:30 am Food Pantry**

5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm AA Meeting 12 Steps

6:00 pm Antique Collectors Board

7:00 pm Al-Anon Group

#### Friday October 21, 2022

10:30 am Grace Stitchers

7:30 pm AA Meeting

#### Saturday October 22, 2022

*Private Event in Fellowship Hall*

#### Sunday October 23, 2022

8:00 am Spoken Word

8:45 Adult Sunday School

10:15 am Liturgical Word

#### **Children's Sunday school**

4:00 pm AA Group

**The numbers are in for the Yard Sale:**

**\$2,879.75**

**Thank you again to everyone who participated.**

#### Office Hours

Office hours may vary  
this week. Please call Pastor Althea  
directly with any urgent matters

**484.345.0399**

## HARVEST HOME PROJECT

### “FEED THE NORTHEAST”

Grace Lutheran is collecting 500 (plus)  
items for Grace Place

Ecumenical Pantry. We are partnered  
with St. Johns Lutheran Church &  
Thrivent. With the rising costs of food,  
our pantry has seen a very high  
demand for help. Once we meet the  
mark of 500 items, Thrivent will  
generously gift our pantry with a \$500  
donation. We are very close to meeting  
this goal. Thank you to all  
those who donated.