

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

January 15, 2023—January 22, 2023

## SECOND SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

1/15/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Baptism and Traditional  
Worship with Children's  
Sunday School  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 1/16/23

9:00-11:30AM Grace Place Food Pantry  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 1/17/23

9:00-11:30AM Grace Place Food Pantry  
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Church Council

WEDNESDAY 1/18/23

9:00-11:30AM Grace Place Food Pantry  
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 1/19/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry  
6:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 1/20/23

10:30AM Grace Stitchers  
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 1/21/23

*No events*

## THIRD SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

1/22/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
with Children's Sunday School  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous



January 15, 2023 Second Sunday in Epiphany



## 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.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor † Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.  
Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

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## GATHERING

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**Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!**

*Please fill out a PRAYER CARD located in the pews if you have any prayer requests.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Lamb of God*

by Daniel Burton

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **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.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life, **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

People of God, hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*Christ Be Our Light*

ELW #715

## WELCOME VISITORS!

**If you are a visitor please fill out a VISITOR CARD in the pews if you are new to our church.** Pastor Althea would love to meet you and get in touch with you.



**Offering Envelopes for 2023** are available in the back of the sanctuary in the lobby (narthex).

## THANK YOU FROM WELCA

The Women of Grace (WELCA) thank everyone for all of the donations for the Somers Point School District. A total of 10 hats, 1 scarf, and 36 gloves were collected for the children.



The **BUDGET HEARING** will be **Sunday, January 22, 2023.**

Please bring any questions or concerns you have for this year's budget to this meeting immediately following worship.

**Sunday, February 5, 2023, is our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.** We will gather in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:15am worship service.

**SENDING HYMN**      *We are Marching in the Light*      ELW #866

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

**POSTLUDE**    *We are Marching in the Light*      by Robert Buckley Farlee

**DISMISSAL**    Go in peace and proclaim the good news of the Messiah.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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**We thank all those serving in worship today:**  
**Reader:** Kevin Thomas  
**Altar Guild:** Brenda, Clare, Marleigh, and Ruth

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**Our Altar Flowers Sponsor today:**  
The altar flowers are given in loving  
memory of my husband, Ron, on our  
35th wedding anniversary by Mary  
Goodman.

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**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**      *front of the red ELW hymnal on pages 147-148*

**HYMN OF PRAISE**    *This is the Feast*      *ELW hymnal on page 149*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us  
forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve  
you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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**WORD**

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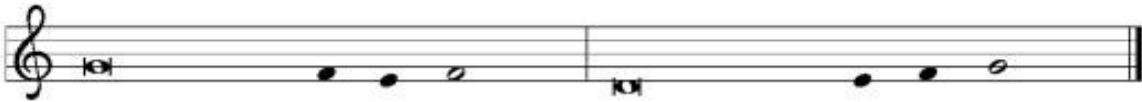
**FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7**

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes  
her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the  
Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant’s ultimate  
assignment is to bring news of God’s victory to the ends of the earth. God in  
faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

- 1 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.
- 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.
- 3 And he said to me, “You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
- 4 But I said, “I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.”
- 5 And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant,



## PSALM 40:1-11



1 I waited patiently up- | on the Lord,  
who stooped to me and | heard my cry.

2 **The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure.**

3 The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the Lord.

4 **Happy are they who trust | in the Lord!**  
**They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies.**

5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for  
us, none can be com- | pared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more  
than | I can count.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered in unity, let us pray as our Lord 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

Come, all are welcome at the table of the Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**      *Lamb of God*      *ELW page 154*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SENDING BLESSING

May God bless you and keep you. May Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: God of healing, you incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hold them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need. We pray especially for all those we name now aloud or in our hearts... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Ever-moving God, you are glorified in all of the servants you have called. Today we remember, Martin Luther King Jr., and the great witness of his ministry and his faith. Grant us deep trust in you and give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you all of our needs and hopes, O God, trusting in your wisdom and your great power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

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**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *ELW hymnal page 152*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, almighty and ever-living God.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *ELW hymnal page 153*

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

On 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 again. Amen.**

**6 Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire;  
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you  
have | not required.**

7 And so I said, “Here I | am; I come.  
In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

**8 ‘I love to do your will, | O my God;  
your law is | deep within me.’ ”**

9 I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O | Lord, you know.

**10 I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken  
of your faithfulness and | your deliverance;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great  
assembly.**

11 You are the Lord; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;  
may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

*Though God’s church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The holy gospel according to John, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

*John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

29 [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). 42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *The children are dismissed after the Pastor's message for Sunday School and they will return for communion.*

## SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lamb of God*

ELW #336

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Lamb of God*

by Richard Shephard

*Please stand as you are able.*

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in Me a Clean Heart ELW page 186*

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence for reflection.*

A: Lord, put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the witness of missionaries and all who work to share their faith with others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Creator God, grant us new appreciation for nature and all you have made that is good. Remind us to whom we belong in our baptism when we encounter streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Support plants and animals who depend on them, bring rain in places of drought, and be with all who are responding to devastating floods. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: In Jesus, you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness, discernment, and compassion for all people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**