

## HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

June 18, 2023—June 25, 2023

### 3rd SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 6/18/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
Joyful Noise Offering  
Fellowship Hour  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### MONDAY 6/19/23

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

### TUESDAY 6/20/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
**5:00PM Endowment Meeting/  
Dinner**  
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00PM Church Council Meeting

### WEDNESDAY 6/21/23

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

### THURSDAY 6/22/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
7:00PM Al-Anon

### FRIDAY 6/23/23

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

### SATURDAY 6/24/23

*No events*

### 4th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

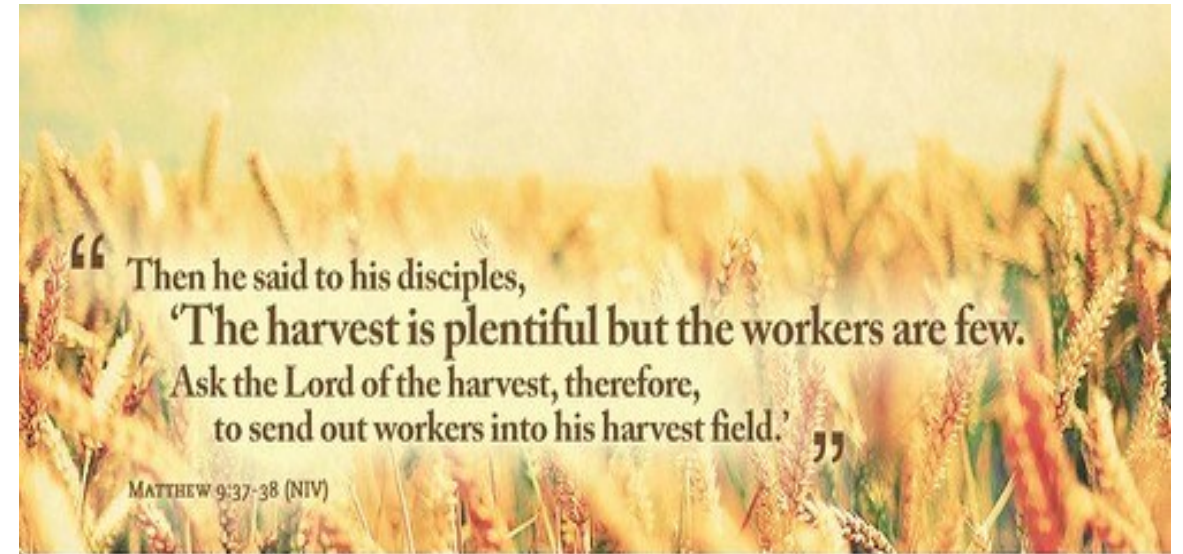
6/25/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous


<p>Present this bulletin on a Sunday and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace Lutheran Church. Present this on any other day, and we will donate 10%.</p>
<p>Shore Diner 6710 Tilton Road Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234 609-641-3669</p>

June 18, 2023

3rd Sunday of Pentecost



## 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  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

**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!**

### Introduction

*Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Andante* from Sonata No. 5 in E minor by: J. S. Bach  
Andrew Ehrhardt: Flute  
*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

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

Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is our refreshing water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace for all of our shortcomings. You are freed and forgiven by Christ to claim the gift of God's mercy: in the name of + the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*God Is Here*

ELW #526

VERSE 1 & 4 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 3 WOMEN

### 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.**



Pastor Althea wishes joy to all who celebrate this day. We give thanks for all the people in our lives who have been fathers or father-like figures to us. Pastor holds in prayer all those who struggle with their family relationships and all who have lost their fathers or children.

Please join us for Fellowship  
Hour, sponsored by the  
church choir, immediately  
following the church service  
in the social hall!

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM

FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

#### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON-THURS 10:00AM-2:00PM



SENDING BLESSING

Beloved children of God, as we are sent from this place, know that God loves you. Christ’s presence is with you wherever you go. Finally, know that the Spirit is with you whenever you call on the Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN     *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*     ELW #535

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

POSTLUDE                     *Pomp and Circumstance*                     by Edward Elgar

DISMISSAL    Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!*

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**We thank all those serving in worship today!**  
**Reader:** Meg Markkanen

**The flowers sponsor this week is:** Bettie Cross. “Happy 70th Anniversary to you, Bob, with all my love!”

**The candles, wine and bulletins sponsor is:** Gay Blohm. “Thanks be to God!”

KYRIE

*white booklet page 2*

NOW THE FEAST

*white booklet page 3-4*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:2-8a

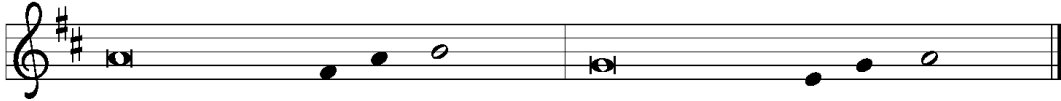
*At Sinai God assured Israel, “You shall be my treasured possession,” and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God’s will.*

<sup>2</sup>[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.<sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup>You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup>So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8a</sup>The people all answered as one: “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

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

## PSALM 100



<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all you lands!

<sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence | with a song.

<sup>3</sup>**Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom | we belong; we are God's people and the sheep | of God's pasture.**

<sup>4</sup>Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the | courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's | holy name.

<sup>5</sup>**Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is | everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from | age to age.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-8

*Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

<sup>13</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*white booklet page 4*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 9th & 10th chapters. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8

*The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.*

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. All praise and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 and know Christ, broken and poured out for you. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

*white booklet page 7*

## 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

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SENDING

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*Please stand as you are able.*

*all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: For fathers and father figures, we pray. Console all who long to be fathers, children estranged from their fathers, anyone grieving the death of a father, and fathers who have lost a child. Draw near to all for whom this day stirs up both great joy and difficult emotions. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: For all the saints, we give thanks. Receive into your eternal care all of our loved ones who have died recently. Fill us with hope in your promise of eternal life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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## HOLY COMMUNION

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### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*white booklet page 5*

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.

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

*white booklet page 6*

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

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

<sup>10:1</sup>Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [<sup>9</sup>Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup>Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

<sup>16</sup>“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup>and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; <sup>20</sup>for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup>Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to

death; <sup>22</sup>and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

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

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *In Christ Called to Baptize* *ELW# 576*  
VERSE 1 & 4 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 3 WOMEN

## THE 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 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.**

**PEACE** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

*Take a brief moment to share that peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.*

## OFFERING

## JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

*Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of June is The Humane Society in Ocean City, NJ.*

**OFFERTORY** *The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune* by: R. Vaughan Williams  
ELW 883 VERSES 1 & 2 ALL, VERSES 3 & 4 CHOIR, VERSE 5 ALL

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *As The Grains Of Wheat white booklet pg.5*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **We praise you, God, Creator of the universe. We thank you for all of the blessings in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Take these gifts and use them for your holy work. Grant us opportunities to serve those in need. Send your Spirit to watch over us and guide us in all that we do through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in God’s abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need. *A brief silence.*

A: For the church here and around the world, we pray. Seek out disciples and send them out with authority to proclaim good news, bring healing where there is pain, and counter the forces of evil. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: For the earth and all its creatures, we pray. Equip farmers, farm workers, and all who labor on the land to produce a harvest. Nourish crops with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Restore lands ruined by pollution or misuse. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: For those who govern, we pray. Empower those who seek peaceful solutions to conflict and embolden those who advocate for all who are oppressed. Work through systems of government to establish justice throughout the world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: For those who suffer, we pray. Accompany those who feel helpless, alone, or abandoned. Embrace any who long for successful treatment for mental illness or freedom from addiction. Heal those who are sick *especially*