

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

June 25, 2023—July 2, 2023

## 4th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 6/25/23

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

### MONDAY 6/26/23

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

### TUESDAY 6/27/23

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

### WEDNESDAY 6/28/23

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

### THURSDAY 6/29/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
**12:00PM Chat & Chew**  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
7:00PM Al-Anon

## FRIDAY 6/30/23

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

## SATURDAY 7/1/23

*No events*

## 5th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 7/2/23

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

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

### **PASTOR OFFICE HOURS**

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

### **SHORE DINER**

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%.

Shore Diner  
6710 Tilton Road  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234  
609-641-3669

June 25, 2023

4th 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

*God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

by: James Biery

*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

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

ELW #876

### 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.**

**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:** Shirley Blankenship

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**The flowers sponsor this week is:** Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of her daughter, Sarah's birthday!



**The candles sponsor is:** Linda Rihl, "Remembering my dear son, David, on what would have been his 47th birthday."

### NEW JOB OPENING! SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTANT

We are in search of a new contracted 1099 part-time person. This position includes management of our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts, as well as communication with several entities of our church. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in this position, please email a resume to: [gracesomerspoint@gmail.com](mailto:gracesomerspoint@gmail.com). Contact Pastor Althea for the job description and any additional information.

## 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.*

## 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**    *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*    ELW #769  
VERSE 1 & 4 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 3 MEN

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

**POSTLUDE**    *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*    by: Johann Ludwig Krebs

## KYRIE

*white booklet page 2*

## NOW THE FEAST

*white booklet page 3-4*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

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## WORD

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## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.*

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.  
<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"

For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him,  
and take our revenge on him."

<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;

therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

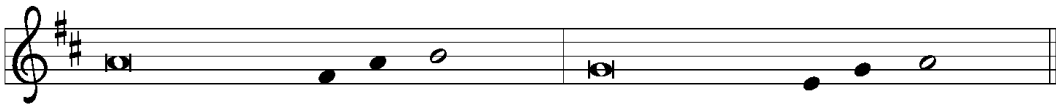
<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my  
cause.

<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD!

For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

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

### PSALM 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18



<sup>7</sup>Surely, for your sake I have suf- | fered reproach,  
and shame has cov- | ered my face.

<sup>8</sup>**I have become a stranger to | my own kindred,  
an alien to my | mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eat- | en me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fall- | en upon me.

<sup>10</sup>**I humbled my- | self with fasting,  
but that was turned to | my reproach.**

<sup>11</sup>I put on | sackcloth also,  
and became a by- | word among them.

<sup>12</sup>**Those who sit at the gate mur- | mur against me,  
and the drunkards make | songs about me.**

<sup>13</sup>But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have | set,  
O LORD:

“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your un- | failing help.

<sup>14</sup>**Save me from the mire; do not | let me sink;  
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of | the deep  
waters.**

<sup>15</sup>Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swal-  
| low me up;

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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.**

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.**

*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: You entice your church to speak truth that challenges false notions of peace. Prevail upon us with the good news of Christ's death and resurrection, that we are compelled to share the gospel with all the world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Under your watch not even a sparrow goes unnoticed. Safeguard plant and animal habitats threatened by melting glaciers, rising oceans, and receding coastlines. Amplify the voices of those calling for responsible stewardship of the earth's resources. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Our world is enduring violence and destruction. Rescue your people in nations experiencing conflict or crisis. Thwart the efforts of those who sow chaos and terror, and guide those working to bring about peace and reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: You have counted even the hairs of our heads. Reassure anyone experiencing poverty, homelessness, unemployment, or exploitation that every life has value. Look favorably upon all who struggle *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Answer us, for your steadfast love is good. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Even when we experience rejection your love invites us to new life. Lift up anyone who feels shunned or excluded on account of their gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or any other human distinction. Make your people one. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

do not let the pit shut its <sup>1</sup>mouth upon me.  
<sup>16</sup>**Answer me, O LORD, for your <sup>1</sup>love is kind;  
 in your great compassion, <sup>1</sup>turn to me.**  
<sup>17</sup>Hide not your face <sup>1</sup>from your servant;  
 be swift and answer me, for I am <sup>1</sup>in distress.  
<sup>18</sup>**Draw near to me <sup>1</sup>and redeem me;  
 because of my enemies de- <sup>1</sup>liver me.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the*



*truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Belzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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**      *O God, My Faithful God*      *ELW# 806*  
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

**OFFERTORY**    *We Know That Christ is Raised*    arr. by: Hal H. Hopson  
ELW 449 VERSES 1, 2, & 4 ALL, VERSE 3 CHOIR

*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.**