

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

July 2, 2023—July 9, 2023

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

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

### MONDAY 7/3/23

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 7/4/23

**Office Closed in honor of  
Independence Day**

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 7/5/23

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 7/6/23

**12:00PM Chat & Chew**

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
7:00PM Al-Anon

### FRIDAY 7/7/23

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

### SATURDAY 7/8/23

*No events*

## 6th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 7/9/23

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

July 2, 2023

5th 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

*The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Finlandia*

arr. by: Andrew Ehrhardt

*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

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

ELW #888

### 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

*white booklet page 2*

## Pictures for the Church Directory

If you need to have your picture taken for the church directory, please sign up for a date and time that works for you. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the narthex. If you are signing up a family (more than a couple), please sign up for 2 back-to-back time slots, to allow more time for photographing. If you already have a nice family photo you would like to submit and use for the directory, you may send that photo to the following email:

[gracelutheranmedia24@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranmedia24@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY SUMMER FUN DAY

(formerly Summer Splash Day)

has been moved to a new date!

**ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US  
on Saturday, August 5, 2023**

Bring a friend! Bring a neighbor! (RAIN DATE: Sunday, August 6, 2023)

## 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.

*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 LaSpina

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**The flowers sponsor this week is:** Carol Landes,  
in honor of Independence Day!

**The candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor is:** Jim Dolan,  
in honor of Jim and Wendy's Anniversary!



## NOW THE FEAST

*white booklet page 3-4*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

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### WORD

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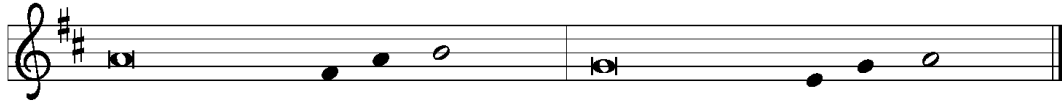
### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28: 5-9

*Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).*

<sup>5</sup>The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

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

## PSALM 89:1-4, 15-18



<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>“I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

<sup>4</sup>**“I will establish your | line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all | generations.”**”

<sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!  
They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.

<sup>16</sup>**They rejoice daily | in your name;  
they are jubilant | in your righteousness.**

<sup>17</sup>For you are the glory | of their strength,  
and by your favor our might | is exalted.

<sup>18</sup>**Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;  
our king to the Holy | One of Israel.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

<sup>12</sup>Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either

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## 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

## SENDING

*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

*This Is My song*

ELW #887

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

## POSTLUDE

*National Hymn*

arr. by: William Thomas Best

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the love of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Lamb of God*

*white booklet page 7*

of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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**     *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*     *ELW# 890*

## 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

*Patriotic Medley*

*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: We pray for wisdom to heed the voices of prophets in our midst who cast a vision of God's promised future and for courage to welcome people whom society rejects. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams and for lands experiencing scorching heat, drought, or wildfires. Grant conservation organizations and environmental activists wisdom and give scientists working on clean energy solutions innovative ideas. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for all those in need and for all exiles, immigrants, refugees, and those seeking asylum. We pray for all experiencing harassment, torture, or abuse and for those who are grieving or ill *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: We pray the safety of children at home and in childcare settings. We pray that they may flourish at summer programs and camps. Be with all who care for them including parents and grandparents; childcare workers and teachers; coaches, counselors, and mentors; pediatricians and psychologists. 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*