

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

July 9, 2023—July 16, 2023

6th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 7/9/23

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

MONDAY 7/10/23

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

TUESDAY 7/11/23

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

WEDNESDAY 7/12/23

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

THURSDAY 7/13/23

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

FRIDAY 7/14/23

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

SATURDAY 7/15/23

No events

7th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

7/16/23

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 9, 2023

6th 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

E-mail: 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.*

GATHERING

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

Introduction

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

He Shall Feed His Flock (from Handel's Messiah)
Corinne Rhodes, Soloist

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



The candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor is: Norm and Nancy Thinschmidt, "In honor of our 65th Wedding Anniversary!" They were married at Grace Lutheran Church on 7/12/1958!

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

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. Contact Pastor Althea for the job description and any additional information.

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 *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* ELW #697

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

POSTLUDE *Give Me Jesus* by: Richard Billingham

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the love of Christ.
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: June Jordan

The flowers sponsor this week is: Jim Dolan,
in honor of Jim and Wendy's Anniversary!

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Give Me Jesus* ELW #770
VERSES 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 4 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.**

KYRIE *white booklet page 2*
NOW THE FEAST *white booklet page 3-4*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145: 8-14



⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹**LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**
¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures
through- out all ages.**
**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your
works.**
¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but

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*

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

P: God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need *especially all we name aloud or in our hearts...*, and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ 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 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and

earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* ELW# 332

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

Come Unto Me

by: J. F. Ohl

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: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

A: God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**