

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

August 2023 Worship Program

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.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

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.**

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

APOSTOLIC 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

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.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

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

PSALM

SECOND READING

Response: 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 ... chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS "As The Grains Of Wheat" *white booklet page 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. *Brief silence.*

Various petitions are offered by the pastor and assistant.

Response: 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.

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 to the table for all are welcome. **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

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

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

POSTLUDE

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!