

January 18, 2026

Epiphany 2



## 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.org](mailto:office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org)

Interim Pastor **†** Wendolyn Trozzo, 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.  
Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.  
S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.*

## GATHERING

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

### INTRODUCTION

*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

**PRELUDE**    *Abide with us, Lord Jesu (A)*    by Johann Gottfried Walther

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

ELW #314

### 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**

ELW S156

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

ELW S159

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

**GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR**

*Please be seated.*

**PSALM 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently up- <sup>1</sup> on the LORD,  
    who stooped to me and <sup>1</sup> heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the <sup>1</sup> miry clay,  
    and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my <sup>1</sup> footing sure.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise <sup>1</sup> to our God;  
    many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are they who trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD!  
    They do not turn to enemies or to those who <sup>1</sup> follow lies.

<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for  
    us, none can be com- <sup>1</sup> pared with you!  
    Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than  
    I can count.

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you do <sup>1</sup> not desire;  
    you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have <sup>1</sup>  
    not required.

<sup>7</sup> And so I said, “Here I <sup>1</sup> am; I come.  
    In the scroll of the book it is writ- <sup>1</sup> ten of me:

<sup>8</sup> ‘I love to do your will, <sup>1</sup> O my God;  
    your law is <sup>1</sup> deep within me.’ ”

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the <sup>1</sup> great assembly;  
 I have not restrained my lips, O <sup>1</sup> LORD, you know.  
<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and <sup>1</sup> your deliverance;**  
**I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the <sup>1</sup> great assembly.**  
<sup>11</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- <sup>1</sup> sion from me;  
 may your steadfast love and your truth continually <sup>1</sup> keep me safe.

## READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

*Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**C: Alleluia!**

P: Lord, to whom shall we go?

**C: You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 1:29-42**

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THE APOSTLE'S 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Agnus Dei*

by Mark Sullivan

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**    *Create in Me a Clean Heart*    WOV #732

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed your people with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Merciful God," please respond with "**Receive our prayer.**"*

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION (*Setting Five*)

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW S161

### EUCARISTIC PRAYER

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW S162

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW S163

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

### COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

ELW S164

### COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

ELW #336

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the container on your way to return to your pew. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.*

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING****ANNOUNCEMENTS****BUDGET HEARING**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**BLESSING**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

**ELW #539**

Verse 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN

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

**POSTLUDE**    *Abide with Us Lord Jesu (B)*    by Johann Gottfried Walther

**DISMISSAL**    Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**We thank all those serving in worship today:  
Worship Assistant: Meg Markkanen**



**The flowers sponsor this week is:** Meg Markkanen,  
In memory of her beautiful mother, Peg Markkanen on her  
birthday!

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

January 18, 2026-January 25, 2026

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany 1/18/26**

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
 8:45AM Adult Forum  
 10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Budget Hearing**  
**3:00PM United in Praise**  
**Choir Festival**

**MONDAY 1/19/26**

***Office Closed-MLK Day***

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

**TUESDAY 1/20/26**

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

**WEDNESDAY 1/21/26**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
 6:00PM AA Book Study  
 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**This week:**

**Tues-Fri 10:00-3:00**

**THURSDAY 1/22/26**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
 5:00PM Choir  
 6:00 AA 12-Step  
 7:00PM Al-Anon

**FRIDAY 1/23/26**

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

**SATURDAY 1/24/26**

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

**3rd Sunday of Epiphany 1/25/26**

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
 8:45AM Adult Forum  
 10:15AM Traditional Worship

**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