

July 5, 2026

Pentecost 6



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

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Reverend † Elizabeth Frey, 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!

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. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE

A Patriotic Medley

arr. by H. Ray Hunsicker

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,+ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW #597

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 S138

HYMN OF PRAISE*This is the Feast*

ELW S140

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.**

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

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR**CHILDREN'S SERMON***Please be seated.***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."

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
 Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
 See, your king comes to you;
 triumphant and victorious is he,
 humble and riding on a donkey,
 on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He 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.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
 I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return 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 *(read responsively)*

⁸ The 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.**

¹⁰ All 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,**

¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures
throughout all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your
works.**

¹⁴ The 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 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.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but 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. ²⁴ Wretched person

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day by Day

ELW #790

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Dear friends in Christ, we gather today with the family of Madeline Grey Miller, who have brought her to be baptized. Together, let us welcome them into this community of faith in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. O God, **again and again in ages past you showed your mercy and grace to children. You saved the infant Moses from death with the**

help of his mother and sister. As you blessed Joseph and Mary and the child Jesus, bless also this family, that they may care for this child entrusted to them, bring them to the bread and cup of blessing, and help her mature in faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God brings you in peace, hope, and joy to fullness of life in Christ and calls you to the waters of baptism.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

P: Who presents this child to receive the sacrament of baptism?

Parents and Sponsors: **We present Madeline for the sacrament of baptism.**

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Madeline baptized into Christ?

Parents: **We do.**

Assistant: As you bring Madeline, to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with several responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the Holy Supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Sponsors: **We do.**

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Madeline in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: **We do.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support Madeline and pray for her in

her new life in Christ?

Congregation: **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. All: **And also with you.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

HOLY BAPTISM

Madeline Grey, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Let us pray together. **We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.**

Sustain Madeline with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Madeline, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Assistant: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Applause may follow as a sign of welcome. All may be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Variations on America
Please stand as you are able.*

Traditional

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart O God* [WOV #732](#)

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW S144

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW S144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew via the side aisles. 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 and cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

ELW #888

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

POSTLUDE

God Bless America

Berlin

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Corinne Rhodes**

The flowers sponsor this week is: Mary Goodman, “Happy heavenly birthday, Vince!”

The flowers sponsor this week is: Jorge Perez, in celebration of Meg Markkanen’s birthday!



**Special thank you to H. Ray Hunsicker for
providing the music for worship!**

*Please join us for cake and fellowship after
worship to celebrate the baptism of
Madeline Grey Miller!*

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

July 5, 2026-July 12, 2026

6th Sunday of Pentecost 7/5/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Baptism of Madeline Grey Miller

MONDAY 7/6/26

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 7/7/26

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 7/8/26

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 7/2/9/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:30PM AA 12-Step

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 7/10/26

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 7/11/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

7th Sunday of Pentecost 7/12/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Office Hours:
Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00
Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00

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