

## HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

February 19, 2023—February 26, 2023

### Transfiguration of Our Lord 2/19/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Baptism and Traditional  
Worship with Children's  
Sunday School  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### MONDAY 2/20/23

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

### TUESDAY 2/21/23

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

### WEDNESDAY 2/22/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry  
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
**12:00PM PRAYER SERVICE & ASHES**  
**6:30PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
**WITH COMMUNION**  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 2/23/23

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

### FRIDAY 2/24/23

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

### SATURDAY 2/25/23

*No events*

### First Sunday of Lent 2/26/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
with Children's Sunday School

### **February Worship Assistants:**

2/26 Shirley Blankenship

### **March Worship Assistants:**

3/5 Edna Cordery

3/12 Ruth Bowden

3/19 Kevin Thomas

February 19, 2023 Transfiguration of Our Lord



## 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  
Betty's Cleaning Service, Facility Cleaning Company  
Atlantic Media Productions, Audio and Livestreaming Video

**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!**  
**We welcome The Ferreri Family today as Ben,**  
**joins the family of God in Holy Baptism here at Grace!**

### Introduction

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

**PRELUDE** *Wie Schon Leuchtet Der Morgenstern* by Andreas Armsdorff  
*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life, **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict**

## WEEKLY SPONSORSHIPS

Please note we continue to need altar flower sponsors and other various sponsorships. We have envelopes in the narthex and envelopes downstairs by the office at the bulletin board. Please call the church office or leave a flower envelope under the office door.



## ANNUAL REPORTS

If you would like a packet of reports and information from our Annual Congregational Meeting, please pick one up in the narthex or call the church office.

## UPDATED NEWSLETTER

Please do not forget to pick up an updated GLC Messenger (our newsletter) in the narthex. We updated some times and events from our previous publication.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Wednesday 10:00AM-2:00PM

Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM

### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-2:00PM

---

May the peace of the Lord be with you always! We are glad for your presence today. We hope you come again soon!

---

**We thank all those serving in worship today:**

**Reader:** Meg Markkanen

**Altar Guild:** Brenda, Clare, Marleigh, and Ruth

**Altar Flowers Sponsor today:**

The altar flowers are given by The Krattenmaker Family in loving memory of Catherine Krattenmaker.

**Candles Sponsor today:**

The candles are given by Mary Goodman in loving memory of Ron. Happy Heavenly 75th Birthday!

**Wine, Bulletins, and Music Sponsor today:**

Our wine, bulletins, and music, are given by The Corradetti Family in honor of our grandson, Ben Ferreri's baptism.

## ***WELCOME VISITORS!***



**If you are a visitor** *please fill out a VISITOR CARD in the pews if you are new to our church.* Pastor Althea would love to meet you and get in touch with you.

**and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

People of God, hear the good news: God's mercy makes us refreshed and new. In + Jesus, we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**    *O Morning Stars How Fair and Bright!*    ELW #308  
VERSES 1, 2 & 3 ONLY

### **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.**

### **GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR**

*Take a brief moment to greet someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate, no need to feel pressured to touch or shake hands.*

**KYRIE**                      *front of the red ELW hymnal on pages 147-148*

**HYMN OF PRAISE**    *This is the Feast*    *ELW hymnal on page 149*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

---

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

---

P: Dear friends in Christ, we gather today with the family of Ben Archer Ferreri, who have brought him to be baptized. Together, let us welcome them to 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 him mature in faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God brings you in peace 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.

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

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

Assistant: As you bring Ben, to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with several responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the Holy Supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he 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 Ben in the Christian faith as

## 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

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

---

## SENDING

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SENDING BLESSING

May God bless you and keep you. May Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*In Thee Is Gladness*

ELW #867

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

## POSTLUDE

*In Dir Ist Freude*

by J. S. Bach

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace and follow the way of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God!**



You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*ELW hymnal page 153*

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

On 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.

**For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered in unity, let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**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, all are welcome at the table of the Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Lamb of God*

*ELW page 154*

you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? Sponsors: **We do.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support Ben and pray for him in his new life in Christ? Congregation: **We do.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P: 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? All: **I renounce them.**

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

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?  
All: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God, the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: 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.**

P: 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

P: The Lord be with you. All: **And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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

P: Ben Archer, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

P: 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 Ben 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.**

P: Ben, 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.

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence for reflection.*

A: Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor and local leaders, our governor and state legislators, our president and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect those who are homeless; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated especially all those whom we name now or in our hearts... *(Take a moment to name people on your heart aloud.)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you all of our needs and hopes, O God, trusting in your wisdom and your great power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

# HOLY COMMUNION

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*ELW hymnal page 152*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, almighty and ever-living God.

they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.  
<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*The children are dismissed after the Pastor’s message for Sunday School and they will return for communion.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *Jesus on the Mountain Peak*      ELW #317

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

**JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING**

*Our monthly special noisy offering for February is the Lutheran Disaster Response. Our extra change and donations this month will go toward the earthquakes and disaster going on in Turkey and Syria.*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**   *Christ Upon The Mountain Stands*   by Robert Lehman

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**   *Create in me a Clean Heart*   ELW page 186

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Congregation: **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.*

---

**WORD**

---

**FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 2



<sup>1</sup>Why are the nations | in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

<sup>2</sup>**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot together,**

**against the LORD and against the | LORD's anointed?**

<sup>3</sup>"Let us break their | yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their | bonds from us."

<sup>4</sup>**God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;**  
**the LORD holds them | in derision.**

<sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God | speaks to them,  
and in rage fills | them with terror.

<sup>6</sup>**"As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king**  
**upon Zion, my | holy mountain."**

<sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,  
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you.

<sup>8</sup>**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance**  
**and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**

<sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an | iron rod  
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery."

<sup>10</sup>**And now, you | kings, be wise;**  
**be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the | LORD with fear,  
and with trembling | bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup>**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden | blaze of wrath.**  
**Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!**

## SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 17th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when