

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

February 26, 2023—March 3, 2023

Transfiguration of Our Lord 2/26/23

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

MONDAY 2/27/23

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

TUESDAY 2/28/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry
5:00PM Dream Team Meeting
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 3/1/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM-8:00PM Family Game Night
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 3/2/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
**6:00PM Soup Supper/Video &
Discussion**
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 3/3/23

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

SATURDAY 3/4/23

No events

Second Sunday of Lent 3/5/23

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



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

February 26, 2023 First Sunday in Lent



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

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!

Introduction

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church, Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The meaning of our faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey all the way to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Sojourner

by Raymond Henry

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge our need to turn back to God and for God's mercy and grace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we hurt your creation instead of being good stewards; we struggle with consequences and pain and you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion or empathy. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. **Amen.**

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that all may receive life. This is God's promise for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and refreshes you in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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: Shirley Blankenship

Altar Guild: Brenda, Clare, Marleigh, and Ruth

Candles, Wine, and Bulletins Sponsor today:

Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of my mother-in-law Eleanor Blumenthal's 103rd birthday, with much love.



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.

March Worship Assistants:

3/5 Edna Cordery

3/12 Ruth Bowden

3/19 Kevin Thomas

3/26 Mary Ann Gring

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

FRI 10:00AM-12:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

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

Please keep in prayer the family and friends of Eileen Rumble. Eileen joined our Lord in the church triumphant on February 14, 2023.

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 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* ELW #618

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

POSTLUDE Erhalt’ Uns, Herr, Bei Deinen Wort by Johann Pachelbel

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

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #.SAS002821 New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

OPENING HYMN *The Glory of These Forty Days* ELW #320

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 138-139*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with their creator, creation, and one another. The serpent’s promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may

eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

PSALM 32



Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave
me the guilt | of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time
of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near
you.”

when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW hymnal page 144

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 *(sung)*

Celebration Hymnal p.631

**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 146

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*

A: You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, ushers, Sunday School teachers, and our new administrative assistant. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW hymnal page 144

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming,

**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him,

“Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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 *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

ELW #325

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* arr. by Richard Shephard

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in me a Clean Heart* WOV page 732

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, our source of eternal life. **Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *Brief silence for meditation.*

A: You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration including all pastors and rostered leaders. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You create beautiful gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You know our temptations. Sustain all those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would spread through all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: You are a safe place for all in distress. Draw near to those experiencing exile, and accompany refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone or are orphaned. Be with all who struggle in places where food and water are scarce. We especially pray for all the children at CICRIN in Nicaragua and the mission team serving them. Bless the children and staff in their next year of ministry. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love *especially* all those we name now or in our hearts... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**