

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

March 5, 2023—March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent 3/12/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional
Worship with Children's
Sunday School
Baptism-William Goff, IV
Installation of Council
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 3/13/23

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

TUESDAY 3/14/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA
9:00AM-4:00PM Pastor at Synod
Workshop
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 3/15/23

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

THURSDAY 3/16/23

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

FRIDAY 3/17/23

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

SATURDAY 3/18/23

No events

Fourth Sunday of Lent 3/19/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
with Children's Sunday School
JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING
FELLOWSHIP HOUR-Sponsored by
women of Grace (WELCA)
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

March 12, 2023 Third 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

GATHERING

Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together! We welcome The Goff Family today as William joins the family of God in Holy Baptism here at Grace!

Introduction

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Bell Symphony

by Henry Purcell

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.

March Worship Assistants:

3/19 Kevin Thomas

3/26 Mary Ann Gring

April Worship Assistants:

4/2 Corinne Rhodes

4/9 June Jordan

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

FRI 10:00AM-12:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON-THURS 10:00AM-3:00PM

BABY SHOWER for Shore Memorial NICU



will be at Grace Lutheran Church

Friday, May 19 at 12:00 PM

Lunch will be served for Shore

Medical nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T),

diapers, knitted and

crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Friday, May 12

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

8:00AM and 10:15AM worship with palms and service of healing and anointing. (No Adult Forum Sunday School at 8:45AM.)

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

12:00PM (noon) Worship with Holy Communion

6:00PM Bread and Broth Supper

6:30PM Worship with Holy Communion

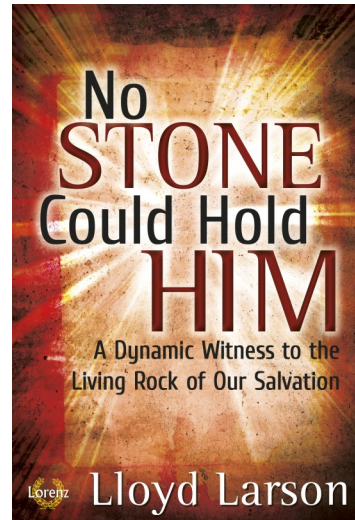
Good Friday, April 7, 2023

12:00PM (noon) Worship Service

7:00PM *No Stone Could Hold Him!*

by Lloyd Larson

Choral Cantata Concert and Worship Service



Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

8:00AM and 10:15AM Celebration Worship Service with Holy Communion (No Adult Forum Sunday School at 8:45AM.)

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.**

OPENING HYMN *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty* ELW #777
VERSES 1-4

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 Gregory William Goff, IV, 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 William for the sacrament of baptism.**

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

Assistant: As you bring William, 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 William in the Christian faith as 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 William 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

Bread and Broth Supper throughout Lent

Come for fellowship & faith enrichment

Join us Thursdays at 6:00PM

in the Fellowship Hall for supper

6:30PM faith enrichment video series ***The Chosen***

(March 16, 23, 30)

Please sign up to bring bread, soup, or a side so we know what food we will have each week. Call the church office or sign up in the narthex on the sign up sheet on Sundays.



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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

by Henry Purcell

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God!

**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: Ruth Bowden

Altar Guild: Brenda, Clare, Marleigh, and Ruth

The candles sponsors today are The Rumble & Krog
Families, in loving memory of Eileen Krog Rumble.

The bulletins sponsor today is Aud and Karl Suckiel, in
honor of our grandson, Gregory William Goff, IV'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.**

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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: Gregory William, 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 William 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: William, 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.

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.

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 and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and to go out and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

May God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* *ELW #335*

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

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.

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

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

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 17: 1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah,

because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



SECOND READING: Romans 5: 1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



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.*

A: We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the nations of the world. Eliminate the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Continue to form and unite all of humanity, especially in places which are divided. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness, especially all those we name now or in our hearts... *(Take a moment to name people on your heart aloud.)*. Give them your living water always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for this congregation, especially those who are recently baptized. We give thanks for the lives of all your saints, especially Eileen and Willard. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected? **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

ALL: **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as officers and council members of this congregation.

May Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come Sing Unto the Lord by Henry Purcell, arr. By Mark Schweizer

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

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL: John 4: 5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will

be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I

sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children are dismissed at this time for Sunday School and they will return for communion.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

For All the Faithful Women

ELW #419

VERSE 1 & 8

Please be seated.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership...

Stephen Gring, President, Mary Goodman, Vice President, Kevin Thomas, Secretary, Heidi Toth, Treasurer, and representatives: Jane Thompson, Gay Blohm, Robin Johnson, Chris Dennis, Jorge Perez and Dale Kredatus

We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.