

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

**PASTOR OFFICE HOURS**

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

**April Worship Assisstants:**

4/9 June Jordan

4/16 Meg Markkanen

4/23 Shirley Blankenship

4/30 Stephen Gring



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

*Do this in remembrance of me*

*Holy*  
**THURSDAY**



**April 6, 2023**

**Maundy Thursday**

**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

**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

*This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Schmucke Dich, O Liebe Seele*

by J. S. Bach

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to battle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving our sins and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another. All may kneel or sit and keep silence for reflection and self-examination.

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**

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

We are thankful and excited that we have had several new individuals and families worshiping with us this fall and winter. Pastor Althea is offering two spring dates for orientation to our church.

Dates for new member orientation are:

**Monday, April 17th at 2:00 PM OR**

**Thursday, April 20th at 7:00 PM**



You are invited to pick one of the two sessions to attend. We will go over the same information at both meetings.

We are hoping to install and bless those wishing to be part our family of faith here at Grace on **Sunday, April 30, 2023.**

## WE'RE GOING TO BAYFEST!

We hope you will sign up to join Pastor Althea in being part of a church advertising table this year at Bayfest in Somers Point on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

We have divided up the day into time slots. Sign up by yourself or with a friend, family member, or spouse.

Time slots are: 7:45am-10am, 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm, 2pm-5pm

Pastor would like 2-3 people to join her in each time slot as we represent our church. Please call the church office or look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex (lobby in the rear of the sanctuary).

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Sunday, April 23, 2023 Earth Day Celebration**  
and Worship with Special Music at 10:15am



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

ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN**            *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*            ELW #358  
Verses 1, 3, & 5 (All) Verse 2 (Men) Verse 4 (Women)

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, 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: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14**

*Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month

shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.

<sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19



<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice, / and listened to my | supplica-  
tion,

<sup>2</sup>**for the Lord has given | ear to me / whenev- | er I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I re- | pay the Lord / for all the good things God has | done for  
me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup | of salvation / and call on the name | of the Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord / in the presence of | all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your | sight, O Lord, / is the death | of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O Lord, truly I | am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me |  
from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving / and call upon the  
name | of the Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord / in the presence of | all God's people,

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

*There is no benediction for this service.*

Please join us for our continuation of Holy Week  
on **Good Friday, April 7, 2023,**  
for a special worship cantata with Grace Consort Choir:

### ***No Stone Could Hold Him!***

By: Lloyd Larson

Performed by: Grace Consort

Directed by: Scott J Breiner

*Everyone is also invited to join us*

***Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023***

8:00AM and 10:15AM Celebration Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

*(No Adult Forum or Childrens' Sunday School this day.)*

---

The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on April 6, 2023  
in observance of Good Friday.

---

Pastor Althea will be on Easter vacation April 10-11, 2023.  
Please call her cell phone directly with any pastoral  
emergencies or hospitalizations.

<sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof<sup>1</sup> of my mouth;

and you have laid me in the<sup>1</sup> dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers<sup>1</sup> circles round me; they pierce my hands<sup>1</sup> and my feet.**

<sup>17</sup>I can count<sup>1</sup> all my bones while they stare at<sup>1</sup> me and gloat.

<sup>18</sup>**They divide my gar-<sup>1</sup>ments among them; for my clothing,<sup>1</sup> they cast lots.**

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not<sup>1</sup> far away; O my help, hasten<sup>1</sup> to my aid.

<sup>20</sup>**Deliver me<sup>1</sup> from the sword, my life from the power<sup>1</sup> of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the<sup>1</sup> lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have<sup>1</sup> rescued me.

<sup>22</sup>**I will declare your name<sup>1</sup> to my people; in the midst of the assembly<sup>1</sup> I will praise you.**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's<sup>1</sup> line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off-<sup>1</sup>spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid-<sup>1</sup>den from them; but when they cry out,<sup>1</sup> the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the<sup>1</sup> great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who<sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat<sup>1</sup> and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts<sup>1</sup> live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn<sup>1</sup> to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow<sup>1</sup> before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs<sup>1</sup> to the LORD, who rules o-<sup>1</sup>ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow<sup>1</sup> down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be-<sup>1</sup>fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall<sup>1</sup> serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera-<sup>1</sup>tions to come.**

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of | the Lord's house, / in the midst of you, | O Jeru-  
salem.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.*

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread,<sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."<sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."<sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The holy gospel according to John, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Jesus sacrificed himself as the Lamb of God for our salvation. Taste and see the love of Christ as we remember his life, death, and resurrection in this holy meal. **Amen.**

## 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

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**      *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*      ELW # 351

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*Our service today concludes with the stripping of the altar. All may sit or kneel. All symbols of worship and altar items are removed from the sanctuary. Psalm 22 will be sung and the lights will be dimmed.*

should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*    ELW # 708

*Please stand if you are able.*

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY**      *Peace I Leave With You*      by Jonathan Battishill

*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, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

## 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: You make a new covenant with your people. Gather your church around word and table in love and promise as these three holy days enfold us. Open us to behold the mystery of our salvation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You give us our daily bread, fruit of the earth and work of human hands. Bless those who labor and tend to their crops and those who prepare our meals. Strengthen us to advocate for food justice and a fair distribution of resources. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You are our Savior and Teacher and you stoop down to us in servant love. Inspire national and local leaders with a renewed sense of public service. Increase in them a humility to serve with equity and fairness. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: You incline your ear to us in every need. Befriend all who are lonely. Comfort those who grieve. Soothe any who are anxious. Console all who are distressed. Graciously tend to the hurts of your children who suffer in body, mind, and spirit *especially all those we name aloud and in our hearts...* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Precious in your sight is the death of your faithful ones. We remember and give thanks for our loved ones who have died. With them, we trust your promise to love your own until the end. 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

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*ELW hymnal page 144*

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. **You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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, Jesus 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**