

MONDAY 6/12/23

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

TUESDAY 6/13/23

9:00AM-11:30 AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA at Shore Diner
1:30PM-4:00PM Pastor Continuing Ed
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 6/14/23

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

THURSDAY 6/15/23

9:00AM-11:30 AM Food Pantry
1:30PM-4:00PM Pastor Cont Ed
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 6/16/23

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

3rd SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 6/18/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Joyful Noise Offering
Fellowship Hour
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

June 11—June 18, 2023

**We thank our worship assistant
today: Ruth Bowden**

The flowers sponsor today is: Mary Goodman, in loving memory of my brother Jimmy.

The candles sponsor is: Linda Rihl, in celebration of my granddaughter Mya's graduation from Ocean City High School! From Mom Mom Linda

The wine and bulletins sponsor is: Roberta Blumenthal, in memory of Larry on our anniversary.

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

June 11, 2023

2nd Sunday of Pentecost



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

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

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord’s day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God’s mercy for the world.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Borning Cry

setting by: David Christiansen

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Gracious God, we open our hearts to you, you know each of us inside and out, we cannot hide anything from you. Create in us hearts of love and humble us to serve you by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Renew our relationship with you and restore our joy as we worship you and magnify your holy name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. **God of Grace, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We humbly repent and we want to be close to you again. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Restore our relationship with you. Uphold us and strengthen us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you once again through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved through faith. In the

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 and know Christ, broken and poured out for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* *white booklet page 14*

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

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SENDING

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

Beloved children of God, as we are sent from this place, know that God loves you. Christ’s presence is with you wherever you go. Finally, know that the Spirit is with you whenever you call on the Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL Go and serve others with the love of Christ!
Thanks be to God!

We are glad for your presence today.

We hope you come again soon!

A: We pray, O God, for creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters. Be with all the firefighters battling forest fires throughout Canada and the United States. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray, O God, for all who are in need. Accompany anyone enduring chronic illness, any who suffer unspoken hardships, and those grieving a loved one's death. Send healing for all who plead for relief from sickness or pain *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

In 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 Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. All praise and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

name of + Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven. May God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you may know Jesus' great mercy and love for you. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Praise and Thanksgiving Be To God* ELW #458

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

O God, you are the source of life and the foundation of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

P: Dear friends in Christ, we gather today with the family of Kinsley Anne Bori, who have brought her 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 her 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.

Parents and Sponsors: **We present Kinsley for the sacrament 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: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do

you desire to have Kinsley baptized into Christ? Parents: **We do.**

Assistant: As you bring Kinsley, 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 Kinsley 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 Kinsley and pray for her in her 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?

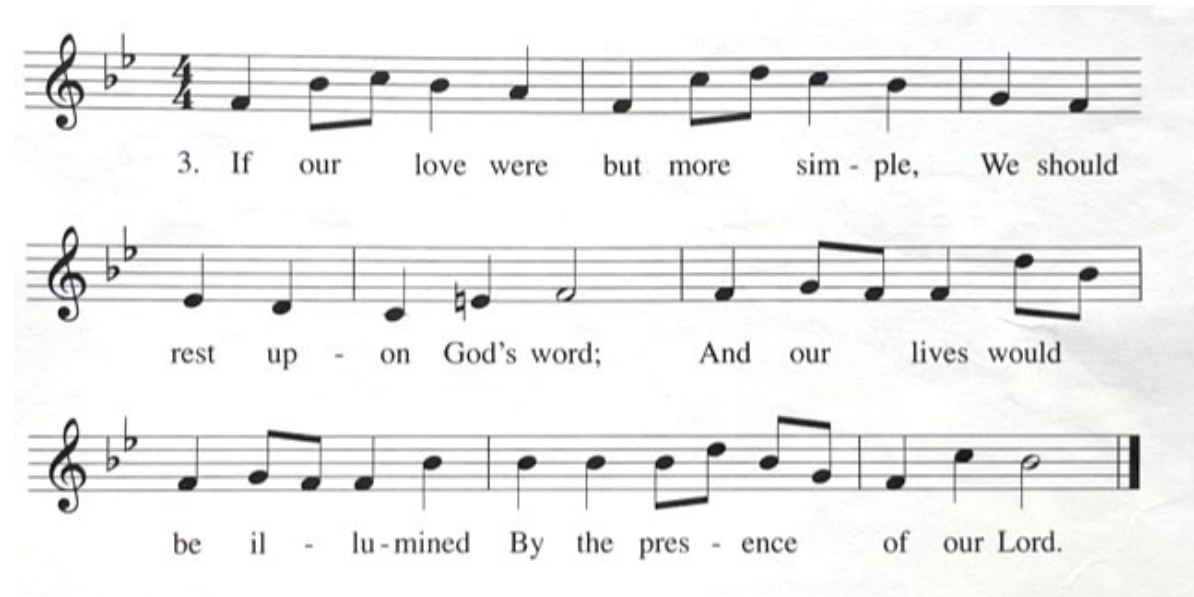
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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,**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* by: David Schwoebel
Congregation, please join choir on verse 3 as printed in the bulletin.



Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *As The Grains Of Wheat* white booklet pg.10

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **We praise you, God, Creator of the universe. We thank you for all of the blessings in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Take these gifts and use them for your holy work. Grant us opportunities to serve those in need. Send your Spirit to watch over us and guide us in all that we do through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need. *A brief silence.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 9th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk By Faith

ELW# 635

VERSES 1,3,5 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 4 MEN

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: Kinsley Anne, 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 Kinsley 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: Kinsley, 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.

WORD

FIRST READING: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

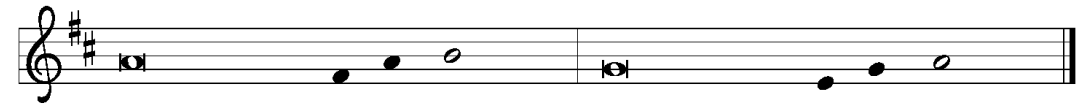
¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or

when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 50:7-15



⁷"Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you;

for I am God, your God.

⁸**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are always before me.**

⁹I will not accept a calf from your stalls, nor goats from your pens;

¹⁰**for all the wild animals of the forest are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. R**

¹¹I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the fields are mine.

¹²**If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

¹³Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High.**

¹⁵Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

Please stand as you are able.