

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

January 21, 2024—January 28, 2024

## 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 1/21/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Joyful Noise Offering**  
**Budget Hearing**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## MONDAY 1/22/24

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

## TUESDAY 1/23/24

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

## WEDNESDAY 1/24/24

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

## THURSDAY 1/25/24

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

## FRIDAY 1/26/24

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

## SATURDAY 1/27/24

*No events*

## 4th Sunday after Epiphany 1/28/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
**4:00PM Catechism Class at  
Reformation**

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM  
FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Althea is often in the  
office and she is always  
available by appointment.

### 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

January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday After Epiphany



1924 - 2024



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ

**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

Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

**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**

*As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Althea Albright

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude in G Major*

by Felix Mendelssohn

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GREETING**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We come before you in a spirit of repentance. We are eager to be close with you again. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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. By grace you have been

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**February 4, 2024**

**MEETING WILL BE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 10:15AM  
WORSHIP**

**IN THE SANCTUARY**

*(PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO 8:00AM WORSHIP ON THIS DAY)*

**ACCESS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM**

**REMINDER:** All members watching worship from home on the day of the meeting

**must close YouTube and log into ZOOM**

in order to hear and participate in the meeting.

BY VIDEO ON ZOOM WEBSITE:

Go to Zoom website and “join a meeting” or go to this link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83844583877?pwd=9D6GyZmoelY1mcxHSnIDtM61zzp8z8.1>

Enter our **Meeting ID: 838 4458 3877**

and then you will be prompted for our **Password: a1kiE2**

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

**Reader:** Meg Markkanen



**The flowers sponsor this week is:** Mary Goodman, in loving memory of Ron.

**STRONGER TOGETHER Grief Support Group** is starting this month.

All who are grieving are invited to attend. If interested in participating, please fill out and turn in the information sheet in the narthex or email the church office so we can choose a day and time that fits everyone's schedules.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The 100th Anniversary Committee is in need of volunteers to help at the kick-off luncheon following the 10:15 AM worship service on 2/25/24.

If you are willing and able to volunteer, please contact Jim Foreman.

saved. In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit all your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

### **OPENING HYMN**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

ELW #661

### **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.**

### **KYRIE**

ELW (front of hymnal) p. 147

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

ELW (front) p. 148

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR**

*Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.*

*Please be seated.*

~ **WORD** ~

### **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

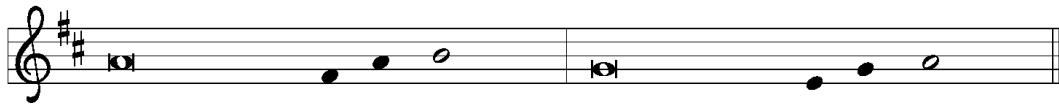
<sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across.

<sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

### PSALM 62: 5-12



<sup>5</sup>For God alone I | wait in silence;  
truly, my hope | is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance | and my honor;  
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- |  
not be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,  
that power be- | longs to God.

<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according | to their deeds.**

*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 abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may be your hands and feet in the world and proclaim your redeeming love to all. Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

### SENDING BLESSING

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Oh Jesus, I have Promised*

**ELW #810**

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

### POSTLUDE

*Allergro Moderato*

by Arnold Cooke

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### BUDGET HEARING

*We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!*

**Friendly reminder: Our rescheduled Church Council Meeting  
is immediately following the worship service.**

~ HOLY COMMUNION ~

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW (front) p. 152

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.

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 (front) p. 153

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal is your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Lord Jesus. 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 temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All are welcome at the table of Christ. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION** *Lamb of God* ELW (front) p.154

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31**

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1: 14-20**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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** *Jesus Calls Us; O'er The Tumult* **ELW #696**

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

**THE APOSTLES' CREED****I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.****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.****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.****JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING***Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of January is  
Beacon Animal Rescue in Ocean View, NJ.***OFFERING****CHOIR ANTHEM** *Love Divine* by Evelyn R. Larter

Andrew Ehrhardt: Instrumentalist

*Please stand as you are able.***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **WOV #732****OFFERING PRAYER**Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through  
your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time,****and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the  
world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***Please be seated.***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for  
God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *Brief silence.*A: God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken.  
We trust you never abandon your promises especially for the most  
vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied  
ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**A: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our  
care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for  
actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**A: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the  
leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your  
way of justice and truth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**P: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and  
sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live  
under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are  
ill or in pain *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* God of  
grace, **receive our prayer.**A: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the  
good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call.  
When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from  
your ways, redirect us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**A: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you  
welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place  
our hope in your salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers  
and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**