

**HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE
THIS WEEK
February 11, 2024—February 18, 2024**

5th Sunday after Epiphany 2/11/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
**Fellowship Hour sponsored by
Financial Support Team**
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 2/12/24

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

TUESDAY 2/13/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00PM Church Council Meeting

ASH WEDNESDAY 2/14/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
12:00PM Worship/Imposition of Ashes
**6:00PM Dinner/Movie/Imposition
of Ashes**
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 2/15/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
5:00 Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Al-Anon
FRIDAY 2/16/24
10:30AM Grace Stitches
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 2/17/24

No events

Transfiguration of our Lord 2/18/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Joyful Noise Offering
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
4:00PM Catechism Class at Grace

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

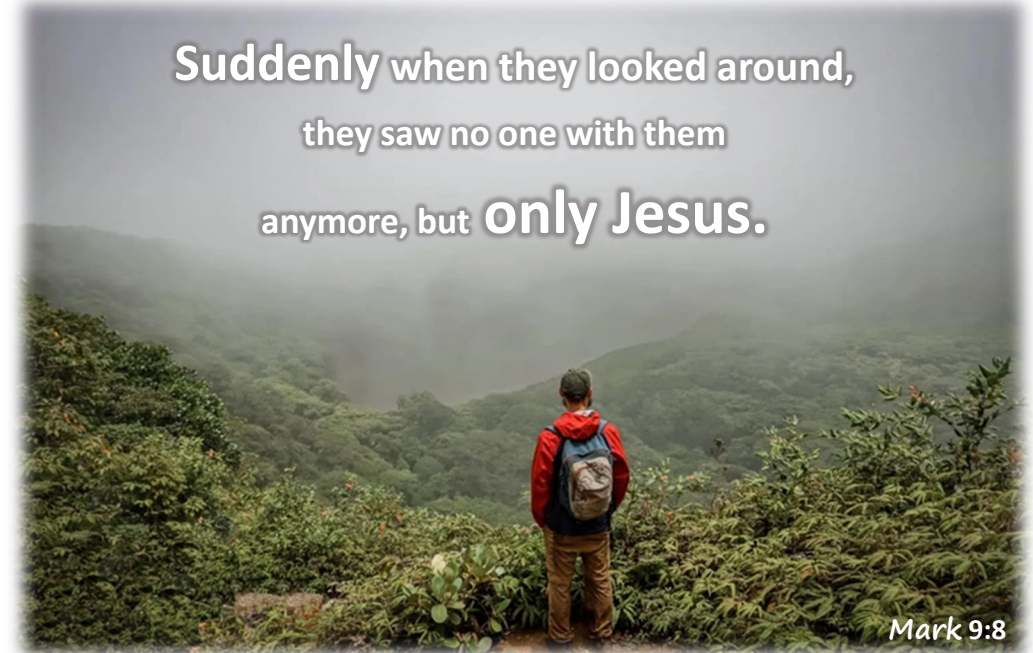
MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM
FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

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

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of our Lord



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ

Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

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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

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Schönster Herr Jesu

by Gregory Hamilton

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,

ASH WEDNESDAY : February 14, 2024

12:00 PM Brief prayer service and imposition of ashes

6:00 PM Supper, followed by the movie “Chocolat” and ending with imposition of ashes.

Please sign up ASAP in the narthex if you want to bring something. The menu will include soup, salad, bread, drinks (soft and hard) and chocolate desserts to go with the movie.

STRONGER TOGETHER Grief Support Group

The next meeting times are scheduled for **Monday, February 19 at 7:00 PM**, and the second group will meet on **Thursday, February 22, at 2:00 PM**. Anyone is welcome to attend the group that best fits your schedule.

LENTEN BREAD & BROTH & VIDEO/DISCUSSION

Starts Thursday, February 22

6:00 PM Supper

6:30 PM Enrichment Video & Discussion: The Chosen
Please sign up if you can bring soup, salad or bread. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex, or call the church office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 100th Anniversary Committee is in need of volunteers for the following dates and times:

February 18 immediately following worship—table and chair set-up

February 22 at 10:00 AM—set up and decorate social hall

February 25 (day of Luncheon) at 10:00 AM—set up food and serving area

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

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

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

We thank all those serving in worship today!
Reader: June Jordan



The flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of her sister, Sally Stieska's birthday.

The candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor is: Roberta Blumenthal, in memory of her mother-in-law Eleanor Blumenthal.

and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. By grace you have been 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

Beautiful Savior

ELW #838

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, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

⁴Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

PSALM 50:1-6



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

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671

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

POSTLUDE

Agincourt Hymn

by John Dunstable

friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. 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.**

~ 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, 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

¹The mighty one, God the ¹LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun ¹to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect ¹in its beauty,
God shines ¹forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will ¹not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a ¹raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth ¹from above
to witness the judgment ¹of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my ¹loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed ¹it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness ¹of God's cause,
for it is God ¹who is judge.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Please stand as you are able.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what

would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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 *Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair* **ELW #316**
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.**

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM *The Transfiguration* by Richard Shepherd

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **WOV #732**

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, **you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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: We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A; We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice in all they do. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P: We pray for any who are sick and suffering *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter,