

*Everyone is invited to join us Good Friday*

12:00PM (noon) Worship Service

6:30PM Worship Service

*Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024*

8:00AM and 10:15AM Celebration Worship Service

with Holy Communion

*(No Adult Forum this day.)*

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The Church Office will be CLOSED on

March 28-April 1, 2024

in observance of Easter.

Pastor Althea will be on Easter vacation April 1-2, 2024.

Please call her cell phone directly with any pastoral emergencies or hospitalizations.

 <p><b>SHORE DINER</b></p>
<p>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%.</p>
<p>Shore Diner 6710 Tilton Road Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234 609-641-3669</p>

**March 28, 2024**

**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

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

*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

*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 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.**

**<sup>24</sup>For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid-**

**den from them;**

**but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

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

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

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

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

**who rules over the nations.**

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

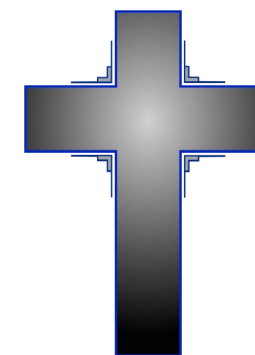
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

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

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<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.*



<sup>6</sup>**But as for me, I am a worm<sup>1</sup> and not human,  
scorned by all and despised<sup>1</sup> by the people.**

<sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh<sup>1</sup> me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they<sup>1</sup> shake their heads.

<sup>8</sup>**"Trust in the LORD; let the<sup>1</sup> LORD deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so de-<sup>1</sup> lights in him."**

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth<sup>1</sup> from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my<sup>1</sup> mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup>**I have been entrusted to you ever since<sup>1</sup> I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my<sup>1</sup> mother's womb.**

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trou-<sup>1</sup> ble is near,  
and there is no<sup>1</sup> one to help.

<sup>12</sup>**Many young bulls en-<sup>1</sup> circle me;  
strong bulls of Ba-<sup>1</sup> shan surround me.**

<sup>13</sup>They open wide their<sup>1</sup> jaws at me,  
like a slashing and<sup>1</sup> roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>**I am poured out like water; all my bones are<sup>1</sup> out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is<sup>1</sup> melting wax.**

<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.

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.*

## 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.**

### 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.**

### GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

*The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.*

<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put

### 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.**

### 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.*

### Psalm 22 [Sung]



<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words | of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not answer; by night, but I | find no rest.**

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are the | Holy One, enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>**Our ancestors put their | trust in you, they trusted, and you | rescued them.**

<sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and | were delivered; they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.

**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.**

### 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.**

it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

<sup>31b</sup>“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also 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

*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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## 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: Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence.*

A: God who kneels to wash our feet, gather your church around the world during this holy week. Humble the powerful and lift up any who are marginalized. Renew our faith and make us bold in service and love to our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: God who blesses the grain of the soil and the fruit of the vine, inspire in us a reverent care for the earth. Sustain fields, gardens, and wild places, that all people are fed and every living thing flourishes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: God whose greatest commandment is love, guide all who govern by

the principle of love. Transform unjust human systems that oppress some for the gain of others. Restore communities as places of justice and concern for those who are vulnerable. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: God who was betrayed, comfort people everywhere who have suffered abuse at the hands of someone they knew and trusted. Heal the bodies, minds, and hearts of victims of exploitation. Help all in pain to know that you are near *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: God who sits at the table with us, grant the joy of your presence to people celebrating first communion today, and to all who share the meal. Strengthen communities of faith in grace and courage. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: God who brings new life out of death, we pray with thanks for the lives of those who have joined the communion of saints *especially our loved ones.* In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people living today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer. **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:

**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.**