

January 12, 2025

Baptism of Our Lord



## 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)

Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, 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 us as we worship our Lord together!**

### INTRODUCTION

*Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

**PRELUDE**     *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*     setting by Wayne L. Wold

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment or indifference. When we ignore the needs of our neighbors; when we resist your call to oppose injustice; when we give in to scarcity and fear; when we assume the worst about one another, cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN***Shall We Gather At The River*

ELW #423

**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**

WOV #28

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

WOV #29

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

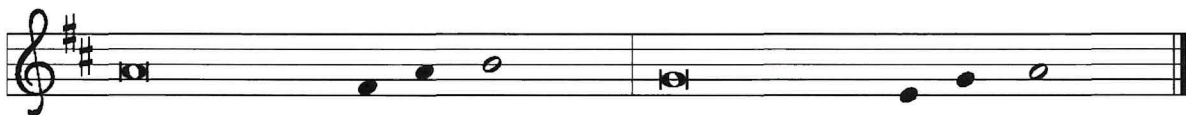
Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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.*

**PSALM 29**

- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the <sup>1</sup> LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo- <sup>1</sup> ry and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory <sup>1</sup> due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beau- <sup>1</sup> ty of holiness.**
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of <sup>1</sup> glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the <sup>1</sup> mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a pow- <sup>1</sup> erful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a <sup>1</sup> voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the <sup>l</sup> cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the ce- <sup>l</sup> dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip <sup>l</sup> like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a <sup>l</sup> young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice <sup>l</sup> of the LORD  
bursts forth in <sup>l</sup> lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD <sup>l</sup> shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilder- <sup>l</sup> ness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the <sup>l</sup> forests  
bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are <sup>l</sup> crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned a- <sup>l</sup> bove the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- <sup>l</sup> evermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength <sup>l</sup> to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless- <sup>l</sup> ings of peace.

### **READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...

<sup>4</sup> You are precious in my sight,  
and honored. I love you.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, “Give them up,”  
and to the south, “Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
 whom I created for my glory,  
 whom I formed and made.”

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather

the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized* **ELW #304**

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized* by William Bradley Roberts

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful* **WOV #35**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude**

**and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "God of grace," please respond with "hear our prayer."*

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

WOV #36

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

**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**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Lamb of God*

WOV #39

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

*All Who Believe and are Baptized*

ELW #442

*Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*

ELW #443

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SENDING

### BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**     *Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

**ELW #543**

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

**CHORAL POSTLUDE**   *Go, Tell it on The Mountain*   by John Abdenour

**DISMISSAL**   *Go in peace. Live in hope.  
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:  
Worship Assistants:  
Shirley Blankenship & Corinne Rhodes**

**The flowers sponsor this week is:  
Carol Landes, in memory of loved ones.**



***Please join us for Fellowship immediately following worship in  
the Social Hall, sponsored by WELCA!***



### **Announcements and Information**

Giving envelopes for 2025 and statements for 2024 are located in the narthex if you have not picked yours up yet. Please be sure you take the ones with your name on them.

Church Directories are here! If you did not get yours yet, please see Corinne Rhodes or Carol Landes after worship or stop by the church office during Corinne's office hours to receive yours.

Pastor Wendolyn is leading a **Funeral Planning Workshop today at 12:00 noon** in the conference room following our Sunday Fellowship & Coffee Hour. If you cannot attend but would like a copy of the workshop packet, please see Pastor Wendolyn.

We will have our **Budget Hearing next Sunday, January 19 during the 10:15 AM Worship Service**. This will be an opportunity to have our proposed 2025 budget reviewed and to ask any questions you may have regarding it.

Please mark your calendars for our  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 2 immediately following the**  
**10:15 AM Worship Service.**

Your attendance for this is very important!

**Home Reading of the Week:**

**Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17**

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM

Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM

**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

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

January 12, 2025—January 19, 2025

## **Baptism of Our Lord 1/12/25**

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Fellowship Sponsored by: WELCA**

**12:00PM Funeral Planning Workshop**

## **MONDAY 1/13/25**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## **TUESDAY 1/14/25**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

**12:00PM WELCA**

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## **WEDNESDAY 1/15/25**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

5:45PM Heather Croft HOA

6:00PM AA Book Study

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

## **THURSDAY 1/16/25**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

**7:00PM Church Council Meeting**

7:00PM Al-Anon

## **FRIDAY 1/17/25**

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## **SATURDAY 1/18/25**

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

## **2nd Sunday of Epiphany 1/19/25**

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Budget Hearing**