

June 29, 2025

3rd Sunday After 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](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

**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*

## GATHERING

**Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!**

### INTRODUCTION

*This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."*

### WELCOME

Rev. Jeffrey Eaton

### PRELUDE

*Lift High The Cross*

by Ronald Arnatt

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God, you free us to love others, you lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, and you surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity. And yet, O Merciful God, we turn aside to our own paths, and we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*Glorious Things of You are Spoken*

**ELW #647**

### 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

Now the Feast and Celebration

*white booklet #3*

**HYMN OF PRAISE***Now the Feast**white booklet #4-5***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, 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.*

**FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21**

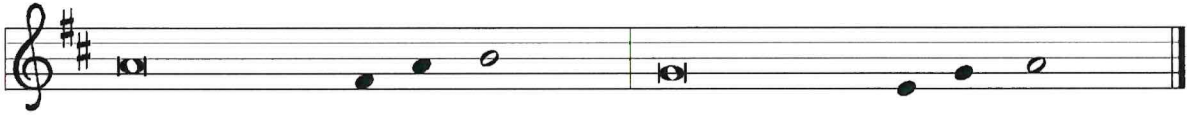
*In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.*

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

<sup>19</sup> So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. <sup>20</sup> He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" <sup>21</sup> He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

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

## PSALM 16



- <sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take ref-<sup>1</sup> uge in you;  
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good a-<sup>1</sup> bove all other."
- <sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are<sup>1</sup> in the land,  
upon those who are noble a-<sup>1</sup> mong the people.**
- <sup>3</sup> But those who run after<sup>1</sup> other gods  
shall have their troubles<sup>1</sup> multiplied.
- <sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings<sup>1</sup> to such gods,  
never take their names up-<sup>1</sup> on my lips.**
- <sup>5</sup> O LORD, you are my portion<sup>1</sup> and my cup;  
it is you who up-<sup>1</sup> hold my lot.
- <sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a<sup>1</sup> pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a<sup>1</sup> rich inheritance.**
- <sup>7</sup> I will bless the LORD who<sup>1</sup> gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night<sup>1</sup> after night.
- <sup>8</sup> **I have set the LORD al-<sup>1</sup> ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall<sup>1</sup> not be shaken.**
- <sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir-<sup>1</sup> it rejoices;  
my body also shall<sup>1</sup> rest in hope.
- <sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me<sup>1</sup> to the grave,  
nor let your holy one<sup>1</sup> see the pit.**
- <sup>11</sup> You will show me the<sup>1</sup> path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are  
pleasures for-<sup>1</sup> evermore.

**SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

*For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

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

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

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

**GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62**

*Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.*

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

"Our Ultimate Concern"

Rev. Jeffrey Eaton

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THE APOSTLE'S 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 power of 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**      *Lift High The Cross*      arr. by Sue Mitchell Wallace  
 Congregation, please join in singing “only” the refrain upon invitation.  
 ELW #660

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**   *As the Grains of Wheat*   *white booklet #10*  
*(Refrain only)*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all 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: Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**   *(spoken)*      *white booklet #11*

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**HOLY**   *(sung)*      *white booklet #11-12*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *(spoken)*

*white booklet #12*

## **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 kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Lamb of God*

*white booklet #14*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*

**ELW #492**

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

**ELW #494**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*We will have continuous communion in front of the steps today. EVERYONE IS INVITED to come down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats via the side aisle. There is white grape juice in the center of the circular tray and red wine in the outer part of the tray. If you are unable to come up to the front, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children or those who have not received a first communion are welcome to come for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Holy God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**THANKS BE TO YOU**

*white booklet #15*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



*Please stand as you are able.*

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

**ELW #324**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

*Trumpet Tune in G Major*

by David N. Johnson

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We are glad for your presence today.*

*We hope you come again soon!*

*Special thank you to Pastor Jeffrey Eaton for leading our  
worship service!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:**  
**Worship Assistant: Stephen Gring**

**The flowers sponsor this week is: Mary Ann & Stephen  
Gring, in memory of Edna Culp Gring.**



**The flowers, candles, bulletins, wine, and music sponsor  
this week is: Mary Ellen & Robert Bartholomew,  
thanking their daughter, Tracie for the wonderful job she did  
for 12 years as Bishop, serving  
145 churches in her synod!**

## **NO SHOWER HAPPY HOUR & FOOD DRIVE**

Gregory's Bar and Restaurant  
900 Shore Road in Somers Point  
Tuesday, July 1 from 5PM-8PM

*Our local food bank needs your help!  
Come as you are, bring some nonperishable food items,  
and enjoy food and drinks.  
There will also be a 50/50 raffle.*

Come and enjoy one or more of Scott Breiner's organ recitals this summer at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, home of the largest organ in the world!

**The recitals are at noon on the following dates:**

July 2nd  
July 14th  
August 7th  
August 12th  
August 29th

# Let's Take a Road Trip with God!

## Join us for Vacation Bible School!

For More Information:  
stjohnlutheranoc.org  
alissa@stjohnlutheranoc.org  
(609) 399 - 0798

St. John Lutheran Church  
1001 Central Avenue  
Ocean City, NJ

Mon. Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> - Thurs. Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>  
9am - 12pm Each Day

Kids Ages 4 Years Old to  
Entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade are welcome

[Click here to Register →](#)

Cokesbury Kids  
**ROAD TRIP**  
ON THE GO WITH GOD



# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## June 29, 2025—July 6, 2025

### 3rd Sunday of Pentecost 6/29/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
10:15AM Traditional Worship

### MONDAY 6/30/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
6:30PM Grief Support Group  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 7/1/25

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

### WEDNESDAY 7/2/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
6:00PM AA Book Study  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 7/3/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 AA 12-Step  
7:00PM Al-Anon

### FRIDAY 7/4/25

***Office Closed in Observance of  
July 4th Holiday***

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

### SATURDAY 7/5/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### 4th Sunday of Pentecost 7/6/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship

### **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

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**This week:**

**Mon-Thurs 10:00AM-3:00PM**