

July 27, 2025

7th 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  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

## GATHERING

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

### INTRODUCTION

*Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God’s own. “When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.”*

### WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

### PRELUDE

*The Lord’s Prayer*  
Soprano, Ruth Bowden

by Albert Hay Malott

*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. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s beloved children. 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

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

**ELW #530**

### 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 page 203**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

**ELW page 204**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

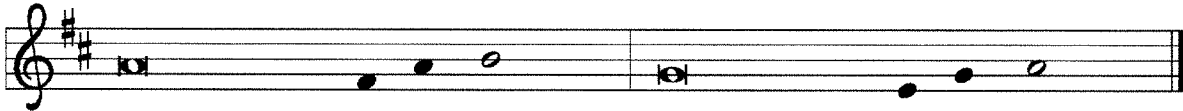
**PEACE** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## 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.*

## PSALM 138



- <sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with <sup>|</sup> my whole heart;  
before the gods I will <sup>|</sup> sing your praise.
- <sup>2</sup> **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,**  
**because of your steadfast <sup>|</sup> love and faithfulness;**  
**for you have glorified your name and your word a- <sup>|</sup> bove all things.**
- <sup>3</sup> When I called, you <sup>|</sup> answered me;  
you increased my <sup>|</sup> strength within me.
- <sup>4</sup> **All the rulers of the earth will praise <sup>|</sup> you, O LORD,**  
**when they have heard the words <sup>|</sup> of your mouth.**
- <sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways <sup>|</sup> of the LORD,  
that great is the glory <sup>|</sup> of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> **The LORD is high, yet cares <sup>|</sup> for the lowly,**  
**perceiving the haughty <sup>|</sup> from afar.**
- <sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you <sup>|</sup> keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right <sup>|</sup>  
hand shall save me.



<sup>8</sup> You will make good your pur-<sup>1</sup>pose for me;  
**O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works<sup>1</sup> of your hands.**

**READING: Colossians 2:6-10, 13-19**

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

<sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses... God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."<sup>2</sup> So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to

him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*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 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***The Lord's Prayer*

by Richard Shephard

*Please stand as you are able.***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *Create in Me a Clean Heart***WOV #732****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: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. *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: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION****GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER****HOLY, HOLY, HOLY****ELW page 207****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 kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Lamb of God*

**ELW page 208**

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

*Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright*

**ELW #745**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**ELW #742**

## **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.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **SENDING**

## **BENEDICTION**

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**      *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.*

**POSTLUDE**      *Sinfonia*      by J. S. Bach, arr. By Homer Whitford

**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!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:**  
**Worship Assistant: Meg La Spina**

**The flowers sponsor this week is:** Roberta Blumenthal, in celebration of Laura & Doug Siteman's 21st wedding anniversary!



### **Home Reading: Genesis 18: 20-32**

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in

the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.”<sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes.”<sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”<sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.”<sup>30</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”<sup>31</sup> He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.”<sup>32</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

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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:**

August 7th  
August 12th  
August 29th

## **DONATIONS TO HELP THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN TEXAS**

Our church will be accepting donations to help support those affected by the Texas floods. If you wish to donate to this cause, please turn in or send your donation to the church in an envelope separate from your regular offering and specify what it is for. You can simply write something like, "Texas flood donation".

**Please make any checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church.**

We will send one big check for the total amount after we have received all donations. We would like to have all donations by  
**Tuesday, August 5.**

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**1st Communion Class (3rd grade & up)**

**Sunday, August 10**

**1:30-3:30 PM here at Grace**

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### **Grief Support Group**

Our Grief Support Group will be taking a recess for the remainder of the summer. The group will continue to meet again the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the lounge starting  
**September 15.**

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The Grace Messenger for August-September is available in the narthex for those of you who specified that you prefer paper copies. They are in envelopes with your name and address on them arranged alphabetically. Please take yours!



# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## July 27, 2025—August 3, 2025

### 7th Sunday of Pentecost 7/27/25

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

### MONDAY 7/28/25

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

### TUESDAY 7/29/25

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

### WEDNESDAY 7/30/25

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

### THURSDAY 7/31/25

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

### FRIDAY 8/1/25

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

### SATURDAY 8/2/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### 8th Sunday of Pentecost 8/3/25

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

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**This week:**

**Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00**

**Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00**

### 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