

August 3, 2025

8th Sunday After Pentecost



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

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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

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Aria in F Major

by Handel

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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

ELW #393

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

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, 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.

PSALM 49:1-12 *Read Responsively*

- ¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
- ² **you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.**
- ³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
- ⁴ **I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**
- ⁵ Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
- ⁶ **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,
and boast of their great riches?**
- ⁷ One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;
- ⁸ **for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**
- ⁹ in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.
- ¹⁰ **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation,

though they had named lands after themselves.

¹² **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

READING: Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of

you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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.

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of August is Lutheran Disaster Response to assist victims of the Texas floods.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I'll Walk With God by Webster/Brodsvky
Vocal Duet: Dana Cole & Kendra Werner

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 MUSIC

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

We Know That Christ is Raised

ELW #449

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

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

by Campra

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

Special thank you to organist H. Ray Hunsicker for
leading our music!

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

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Edna Cordery

The flowers sponsor this week is: Elizabeth & Bruce Hoelter,
in thanksgiving!



Home Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with

which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

DONATIONS TO HELP THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN TEXAS

We will continue to accept 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.

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

1st Communion Class (3rd grade & up)
Sunday, August 10
1:30-3:30 PM here at Grace

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.**

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

August 3, 2025–August 10, 2025

8th Sunday of Pentecost 8/3/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
**Joyful Noise Offering: Lutheran
 Disaster Response**

MONDAY 8/4/25

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 8/5/25

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 8/6/25

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

THURSDAY 8/7/25

2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 AA 12-Step
 7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 8/8/25

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

SATURDAY 8/9/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

9th Sunday of Pentecost 8/10/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
1:30PM 1st Communion Class

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