

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Church Office: 609-927-3082 Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

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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 we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE *Fantasy on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"* by Russel Green

A Bible Reading from the earliest Christian hymn: St. Paul's letter to the Church at Philippi 2:5-11

L: ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

C: ⁷ **but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.**

L: ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

C: ¹⁰ **so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Processional Gospel Reading: PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

L: Hear from the 21st chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, how our Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem. (Matthew 21:1-11)

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Following the reading, the people's response: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

L: Hosanna to the Son of David!

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

L: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest!.**

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing of the Palms and Branches:

Almighty God, on this day your Son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of hope in his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our Lord, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW #344

GREETING

The extraordinary grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of our faithful God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

ELW #811

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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.

An Introduction to the Sermon:

A Reading from the First Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9

In this reading, which Christians understand as pre-figuring Christ, the “suffering servant,” we are introduced to the two Representatives we will see in the sermon. The red text could well be spoken by Jesus, and the green by various people in today’s Gospel reading.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a} **It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?**

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sing, My Tongue* Verses 1-3 **ELW #356**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 27th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Please be seated.

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54

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

My Song is Love Unknown
Verses 1-3

ELW #343

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Do you believe in God who made us?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe God sent a child named Jesus to save this world?

**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.**

Do you believe the Holy Spirit guides our faith and empowers the church today?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING PREPARATION

Let us prepare ourselves with a moment of prayer.

God, prepare us to give to each other and to you. Give us boldness so that we might ask our neighbors what they truly need, and give us humility so we might listen to their answers. Give us generosity so others can benefit from the gifts we offer to You, and give us abundance so that all who are hungry are nourished and satisfied. Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love* by Arlen Clarke

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Sing My Tongue* Verse 7 **ELW #343**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God, what You will do with these gifts we may never know. Use them so that what we give today will grow and spread Your mercy and love. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "God, in your mercy," please respond with "receive our prayer."

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Where is our God? **God is here in this place.**

Where are your hearts? **We have given them to the Lord.**

What shall we do in the presence of our God? **We will give our thanks & praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & 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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Where can you go that God is not present? **We are always in God's embrace.**

What is God's will for you? **For us, for all, and for all time, God's will is goodness and love.**

Go now, in the love of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Ever blessing and ever blest. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

The Old Rugged Cross

CH #327

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. **Refrain.**

3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. **Refrain.**

4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. **Refrain.**

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

POSTLUDE

Ah, Holy Jesus

by Daniel Burton

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
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: Mary Ann Gring**

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29

8:00 AM Worship & 10:15 AM Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 PM Worship Service & Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3

7:00 PM Wrapping the Cross
Congregation Participation

Easter Sunday, April 5

10:15 AM Worship (No 8:00 AM)

As a devotional act for Good Friday, we are accepting donations of 1st Aid Products for Bridge of Peace Lutheran Church & Food Pantry in Camden, NJ.

**Bob Klingensmith is currently under the care of Hospice.
Here is his address if you would like to send him a card:**

**18 Killdeer Hill Road
Woodbine, NJ 08270**

20th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER
for Shore Memorial NICU



will be hosted by the Stitchers and WELCA of
Grace Lutheran Church
along with our brothers and sisters from
Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon

Friday, May 15th at 12:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be served for Shore Medical Center nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T),
diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Sunday, May 10th

Please R.S.V.P. to Roberta Blumenthal 609-927-1654 or the
Church Office 609-927-3082.

The deadline to RSVP for the Meet & Greet Italian Dinner on
April 11 at 5:00 PM with the Pastoral Candidate is this
Wednesday, April 1st.

The Pastoral Candidate will lead worship and preach on Sunday,
April 12 at 10:15, followed by a Congregational Meeting and vote.
There is no 8:00 AM worship on that Sunday. We need everyone in
attendance at 10:15 and at the Congregational Meeting.

Questions from Matthew's account of the Passion (in order)

"What will you give me if I betray Him to you?" (Matthew 26:15,
Judas to the chief priests)

"Where do You want us to make preparations for You to eat the
Passover?" (Matthew 26:17, disciples to Jesus)

"Surely not I, Lord?" (Matthew 26:22, each disciple to Jesus)
"Surely not I, Rabbi?" (Matthew 26:25, Judas to Jesus)

"So, you could not stay awake with Me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40, Jesus to Peter and the sons of Zebedee)

"Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?" (Matthew 26:45, Jesus to the disciples)

"Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" (Matthew 26:53-54, Jesus to Peter)

"Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as though I were a bandit?" (Matthew 26:55, Jesus to the crowds)

"He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard His blasphemy. What is your verdict?" (Matthew 26:65-66, high priest to the chief priests and the whole council)

"Prophecy to us, You Messiah! Who is it that struck You?" (Matthew 26:68, high priest, chief priests, and the whole council to Jesus)

Friday, April 3 at 12:00 Noon

STATIONS

of the Cross

Presented by St. John
Lutheran Church

All are invited to participate in a reflective Stations of the Cross walk, pausing along the way for Scripture readings and prayer as we remember Christ's path to the cross. Ocean City Boardwalk. Begin at 14th Street and end on 6th.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

March 29, 2026–April 5, 2026

Palm Sunday 3/29/25

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

MONDAY 3/30/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Heather Croft HOA Meeting
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 3/31/25

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

WEDNESDAY 4/1/25

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY 4/2/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
5:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous
6:00 AA 12-Step
6:00PM Soup Supper
7:00PM Worship & Stripping of the Altar
7:00PM Al-Anon

GOOD FRIDAY 4/3/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:00PM Wrapping the Cross with Congregation Participation
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 4/4/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

Easter Sunday 4/5/25

No 8:00AM Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Installation of New Council Members

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

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

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