

October 4, 2026

Pentecost 19



Grace Lutheran Church

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Church Office: 609-927-308 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

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Reverend ✝ Elizabeth Frey, Pastor, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

*Note that all text written in bold is for congregation participation.
Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.
S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.*

GATHERING

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

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE *There in God's Garden* by Robert Buckley Farlee

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

My Lord of Light

ELW #832

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 S138

HYMN OF PRAISE*This is the Feast*

ELW S140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, 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*Please be seated.***CHILDREN'S SERMON****CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL****WORD****FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7**

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹ I will sing for my beloved
 my love song concerning his vineyard:
 My beloved had a vineyard
 on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
 and planted it with choice vines;
 he built a watchtower in the midst of it

and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

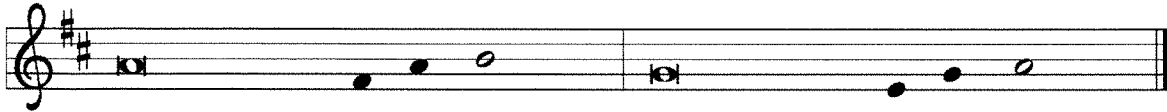
⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

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

PSALM 80:7-15



⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and | planted it.

⁹ You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered | by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken | down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O | God of hosts,**
look | down from heaven;

¹⁵ behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as

loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:
 ‘The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone;
 this was the Lord’s doing,
 and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There in God's Garden

ELW #342

Verses 1-4

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 October is the Somers Point Police Sunshine Fund.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let This Mind be in You

by Craig Courtney

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart O God

WOV #732

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in

**service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

When the pastor or worship assistant says, “Hear us O God”, please respond with, **“Your mercy is great.”**

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW S144

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW S144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. 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 via the side aisles. 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 and cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

MUSIC *Whatever My God Ordains is Right* by Johan Ludwig Krebs

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The God of grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *The Church of Christ in Every Age* **ELW #729**

Verses 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN

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

POSTLUDE *The Church of Christ in Every Age* by Emma Lou Diemer

DISMISSAL Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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: Edna Cordery

The flowers and music sponsor this week is: Stephen and Mary Ann Gring, in honor of the wonderful music program at Grace!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Our Somers Point PD Trunk or Treat is held Sunday, October 25th from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the Shore Medical Center Parking Lot, the corner of Harbor and Bay Avenue. Please plan to arrive at 3:00 PM for set up, as we begin promptly at 4:00 PM. You will be given an assigned space, any helpers can park their vehicles in the parking lot section of the event. We will need a car, 4 volunteers, and lots of treat donations!!!

Please mark your calendars!

FEED THE NORTHEAST: October 1-31

We are excited to once again participate in Feed the Northeast Food Drive to help combat food insecurity for local families with Thrivent Member Network-Northeast Region! If we are one of the first 100 to collect 500 items for our Grace Place Food Pantry, Thrivent will give a \$500 check to our food pantry in addition to the items collected. This is a great way to help them keep their shelves stocked for those in need, especially through the holiday season!

Seaman's Institute-Christmas at Sea

The Grace Stitchers are working hard to make essential items for the men & women working at sea during Christmas. This Christmas at Sea Donation Drive will take place during the month of October, and your donations are very much needed and appreciated! Please place your items in the labeled bin in the narthex.

The Installation for Pastor Liz

This will be on October 11 at our 10:15 worship service with Bishop Compton. We will have a special luncheon for Pastor Liz following that worship service at 11:30. We are asking all who attend to please RSVP so we know how much food to order and please bring a can of soup for our food pantry in honor of our SOUPer pastor!

4th Annual Oktoberfest

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 12
Friday October 16 from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Volunteers are needed to prepare German potato salad, German honey cookies and apple strudel for Oktoberfest! A sign-up sheet, recipes and containers are in the church office. Please stop by during office hours to sign up and pick up what you need for what you wish to prepare.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

September 27, 2026-October 4, 2026

18th Sunday of Pentecost 10/4/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Joyful Noise Offering- Somers

Point Police Sunshine Fund

MONDAY 10/5/26

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 10/6/26

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 10/7/26

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 10/8/26

9:30AM Bible Study

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

5:30PM AA 12-Step

7:00PM Antique Collector's club

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 10/9/26

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 10/10/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

19th Sunday of Pentecost 10/11/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Installation for Pastor Liz
followed by Luncheon**

 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

Office Hours This Week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00