

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

October 15, 2023—October 22, 2023

## 18th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

10/15/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Joyful Noise & Fellowship Hour**

**Sponsored by Thrivent**

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 10/16/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 10/17/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**7:00PM Church Council Meeting**

WEDNESDAY 10/18/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

**6:30 PM Thrivent Workshop**

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 10/19/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 10/20/23

10:30AM Grace Stitches

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 10/21/23

*No events*

## 20th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

10/22/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service

8:45 AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM

FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-12:30PM

THURS varies

October 15, 2023

20th Sunday of Pentecost

*Rejoice*  
in the Lord always.

## 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)

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor ☩ Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

**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 with us as we worship our Lord together!**

### Introduction

*In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us* by Robert J. Hughes

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

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

### POSTLUDE

*Allegro* by Arcangelo Corelli, arr. By Kevin Norris

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the hands and feet of Christ in the world!  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

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**We thank all those serving in worship today! Reader:** Ruth Bowden



**The flowers sponsor this week is:** Roberta Blumenthal, thanking God for another year of blessings!

**Please join us in the Social Hall for Fellowship Hour sponsored by Thrivent, immediately following worship!**

## 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

Come to the banquet of Christ. All are welcome. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**      *Lamb of God*      *WOV page 25*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God, **for we have feasted on your goodness. You are our hope and joy. Strengthen us by this food, and send us to share with the world your love and welcome others to your house, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ **SENDING** ~

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SENDING BLESSING

May Almighty God, ✠ Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, watch over you, guide you, and give you faith for the journey now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**      *Sent Forth By God's Blessing*      *ELW #547*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**      *Now We Join In Celebration*      *ELW #462*

## 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**      *WOV page 12*

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      *WOV page 14*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, 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.*

~ **WORD** ~

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

*After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.  
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.  
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.  
<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A: For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## ~ HOLY COMMUNION ~

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*WOF page 22*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*WOF page 22*

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

## JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

*Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of October is  
Seaman's Institute, Port Newark.*

### OFFERING

**CHOIR ANTHEM**      *The Lord Is My Shepherd*      by Thomas Matthews  
*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**      *Let the Vineyards*      *WOV page 21*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.  
We bring these gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the  
body of your beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us  
pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence.*

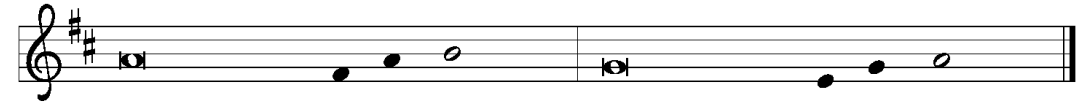
A: For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all  
followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in  
peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural  
world, that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with  
all you have made. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of  
authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice,  
providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace  
and prosperity for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed  
and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who  
walks beside them. *We pray especially for all those we name aloud or in our  
hearts . . .* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## PSALM 23



<sup>1</sup>The LORD<sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be-<sup>1</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my<sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways<sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall<sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>1</sup> comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>1</sup> LORD forever.**

### SECOND READING: Philippians 4: 1-9

*Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul  
calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what  
the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and  
minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem  
peaceful.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the  
Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for  
they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with  
Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of  
life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your  
gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about  
anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let  
your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which

surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**



**GOSPEL: : Matthew 22:1-14**

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, ‘The

wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. 13Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

*Please be seated.*

# SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*    ELW #782

# THE APOSTLES' 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.**