

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

October 22, 2023—October 29, 2023

21st SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

10/22/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 10/23/23

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

TUESDAY 10/24/23

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

WEDNESDAY 10/25/23

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

THURSDAY 10/26/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 10/27/23

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

SATURDAY 10/28/23

No events

REFORMATION SUNDAY 10/29/23

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

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

October 22, 2023

21st Sunday of 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

E-mail: 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 today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Repton

by Robert J. Powell

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.

Brief silence.

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.**

16th Annual Christmas

Saturday, December 9th

9:00 am until sold out!



Cookie Walk

Home Made Pies
Crafts & Vendors
Other novelties



Also
Gently used
Christmas Decorations



FRESH SCONES

Decadent Hot Cocoa

Grace Lutheran Church
11 East Dawes Ave.
Dawes Ave. & Shore Road
Somers Point, NJ 08244
609-927-3082





Cape Shore Chorale

Proudly Presents



AROUND THE WORLD & HOME AGAIN

Featuring music & gastronomical "tastings"

from England, France, Germany, Italy & the good old USA



Saturday, November 4th, 2023

6:00—9:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church @ 11 East Dawes Ave.,

Somers Point, N. J.

A \$50.00 donation per person includes Hors d'oeuvres,
desserts, beverages and a night filled with
musical entertainment.

for more information,

contact Claire Theis @ (609) 214-5323

or clairetheis@hotmail.com



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

God Is Here!

ELW #526

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

Almighty God, you are our Creator, let us live in your image. Christ is our example of serving our neighbor; may our actions be for your glory. As our Redeemer, let us give back to you what is yours, 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 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped
 to subdue nations before him
 and strip kings of their robes,
 to open doors before him—
 and the gates shall not be closed:
²I will go before you
 and level the mountains,
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and riches hidden in secret places,
 so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name,
 I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
 besides me there is no god.
 I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
 I make weal and create woe;
 I the LORD do all these things.

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

PSALM 96:1-9



¹Sing to the LORD¹ a new song;
 sing to the LORD,¹ all the earth.

HARVEST HOME PROJECT

“Feed the Northeast 2023”

Grace Lutheran is proud to participate in Harvest Home Project along with Thrivent.

We are collecting at least 500 non-perishable items to boost “Grace Place Ecumenical Food Pantry”. If we meet the mark of 500 non-perishable items we will receive an additional \$500 (thanks to Thrivent) for Grace Place Food Pantry.

The deadline for donations is:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023



Grace Place Food Pantry - Suggested List

Pasta	Granola Bars
Rice and Pasta Sides	Condiments (mayo, ketchup and mustard)
Mashed Potatoes	Toilet paper
Cereal	Soap
Oatmeal Packets	Toothbrushes/toothpaste
Chef Boyardee	Napkins/paper towels
Canned tuna or chicken	Shampoo & Conditioner
Canned fruits and vegetables	

POSTLUDE*Trumpet Tune*

by David N. Johnson

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Be the hands and feet of Christ in the world!
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! Reader: Corinne Rhodes

The flowers sponsor this week is: Dr. & Mrs. Robert Carlson, in
 memory of parents, Abraham & Hjördis Svindland.

The candles sponsor this week is: Kathy Ruffenach, in loving memory
 Wayne Rumble on the 5 year anniversary of his passing, with much love
 from the Ruffenach, Rumble, and Kellenberger families.



²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name¹ of the LORD;
 proclaim God's salvation from¹ day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a-¹mong the nations
 and God's wonders a-¹mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly¹ to be praised,
 more to be feared¹ than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they¹ are but idols;
 but you, O LORD, have¹ made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are¹ in your presence;
 power and splendor are in your¹ sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families¹ of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD hon-¹or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the¹ holy name;
 bring offerings and enter the courts¹ of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau-¹ty of holiness;
 tremble before the LORD,¹ all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in
 God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our
 prayers, constantly³ remembering before our God and Father your work of
 faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus
 Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has
 chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word
 only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just
 as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your
 sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of
 persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so
 that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in
 Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in
 Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the

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

PRAYER OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Marleigh, as you move to a new place, we wish you and your family well.

A reading from Exodus: The Lord said, “I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.” (*Exodus 23:20*)

In your baptism our Lord, Jesus, received you and made you a member of God's holy church. We have been happy to welcome you and your family as we shared in our mission for God. We hope you will continue to share your faith and share your gifts wherever you go.

Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for Marleigh and her family the time we have shared with them. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~ 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 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ELW #834

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

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.

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

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

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. **Amen.**

Please note that our youth taking First Holy Communion will be invited forward first today.

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

First Holy Communion of Marleigh Cannizzaro

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.

emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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 *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* ELW #580

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.**

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM *O Sing A New Song To The Lord* by David Starr

Follow the direction of our Music Director, Scott Breiner, and join the choir as invited. (See music on next page.)

Congregation **O Sing a New Song to the Lord**
 S.A.T.B. Chorus with Keyboard Accompaniment and optional Congregation

Scottish Psalter (1650), alt DAVID STARR (ASCAP)

ANTIPHON
 With Spirit (♩ = 96) *f*

O sing a new song to the Lord: Sing,
 all the earth, to God, To God we sing, our
 tri-bute bring. His fame we spread a-broad.

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: Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and open our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and

conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. *We pray especially for all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We pray for all the families and friends of our congregation who have recently lost loved ones and beloved pets. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. 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

WOV 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

WOV 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.