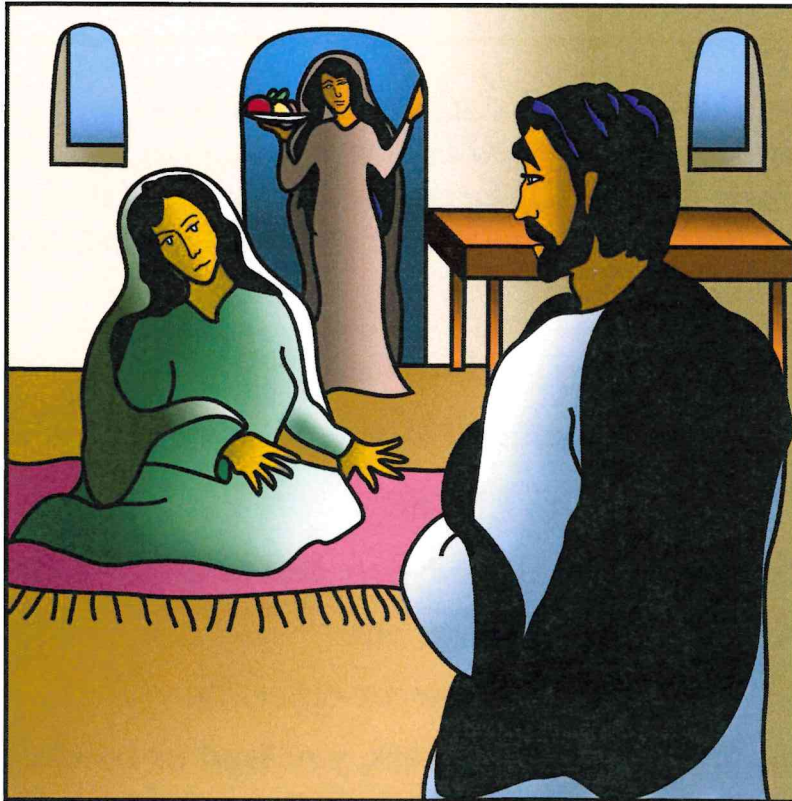


July 20, 2025

6th Sunday After Pentecost



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

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

WELCOME

Jim Ehrhardt

PRELUDE

Canto

by Lani Smith

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. Do not give up on 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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ELW #834

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

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, 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.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

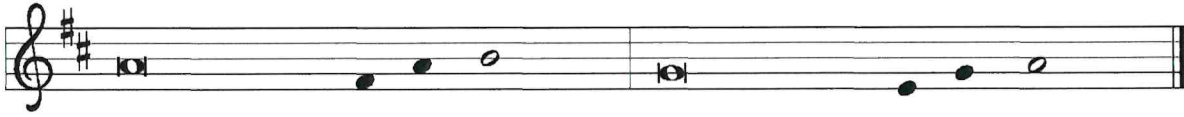
The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a}Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

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

PSALM 15



¹ LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their
word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- |
gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is
“Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in
his life, suffering, and glory.*

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all
creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things
visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all
things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all
things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the
church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might
come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to
himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through
the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil
deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to
present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided
that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without

shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that

precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

It's Sort of Mystical

Jim Ehrhardt

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Have You Heard God's Voice?

by Frederick Chatfield

Mary Ann Gring, Alto

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.

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.

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

O Savior, Precious Savior

ELW #820

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

POSTLUDE *Allegro* by Niokolaus Bruhns, edited by Gilbert M. Martin

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

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

July 20, 2025—July 27, 2025

6th Sunday of Pentecost 7/20/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 7/21/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Grief Support Group
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 7/22/25

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

WEDNESDAY 7/23/25

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

THURSDAY 7/24/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
6:00 AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 7/25/25

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

SATURDAY 7/26/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

7th Sunday of Pentecost 7/27/25

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

Special thank you to Jim Ehrhardt for leading us in worship today!

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Sharon Ehrhardt

The flowers sponsor this week is: Alison Toth, in celebration of our church community and to brighten our time together.

The flowers sponsor this week is: Mary Ellen Foster, in loving memory of her husband Fritz, from Mary Ellen & The Foster Family.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00
Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00