

January 25, 2026

Epiphany 3



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.org

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.
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!

INTRODUCTION

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Adagio

by Charles-Marie Widor

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus’ name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Thy Strong Word
Verses 1, 2, & 3

ELW #511

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 S156

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW S159

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, 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.

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then I shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD. R

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser-^l vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of
^l my salvation.

READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Allelujah!

P: Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: You have the words of eternal life. Allelujah!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

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 *Go Not Far From Me, O God* by Nicola Antonio Zingarelli

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart* WOV #732

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed your people with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Merciful God," please respond with "Receive our prayer."

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION (*Setting Five*)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW S161

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW S162

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW S163

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW S164

COMMUNION HYMN *Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult*

ELW #696

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 container on your way to return to your pew. 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

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Thy Strong Word
Verses 4, 5, & 6

ELW #511

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

POSTLUDE

Toccata by Charles-Marie Widor
Played in honor of Dick Fetter's birthday!

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: Corinne Rhodes



The flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal, in celebration of Sara and John's 1st Anniversary, from Mom, with love!

The candles, wine, bulletins, and music sponsors this week are: the family of Dick Fetter, in honor of his 92nd birthday!

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

January 25, 2026-January 31, 2026

3rd Sunday of Epiphany 1/25/26

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

MONDAY 1/26/26

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

TUESDAY 1/27/26

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

WEDNESDAY 1/28/26

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

THURSDAY 1/29/26

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

FRIDAY 1/30/26

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

SATURDAY 1/31/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

4th Sunday of Epiphany 2/1/26

10:15AM Traditional Worship
Annual Congregational Meeting
Following Worship

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

This week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00