

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

March 3, 2024—March 9, 2024

3rd Sunday of Lent 3/3/24

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

MONDAY 3/4/24

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00PM Grief Support Group
PASTOR AT CLASS 8AM-5PM

TUESDAY 3/5/24

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
PASTOR AT CLASS 8AM-5PM

WEDNESDAY 3/6/24

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Facilities Meeting
PASTOR AT CLASS 8AM-5PM

THURSDAY 3/7/24

**12:30PM 100th Anniversary
Committee Meeting**
2:00PM Grief Support Group
5:00 Choir Rehearsal
6:00PM Bread & Broth
7:00PM Al-Anon
PASTOR AT CLASS 8AM-5PM

FRIDAY 3/8/24

10:30AM Grace Stitches
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous
PASTOR AT CLASS 8AM-5PM

SATURDAY 3/9/24

No events

4th Sunday of Lent 3/10/24

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

Pastor Althea will be taking time out of the office Monday to Friday 8:00AM—5:00PM for continuing education for a class at ULS Seminary.

Please call Pastor directly for emergencies.

Office will be CLOSED Wed-Fri
Corinne will be off from Wednesday, March 6 to Monday, March 11th.

March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday of Lent



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ

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

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

At the Cross

by Ellen Jane Lorenz

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

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

We thank all those serving in worship today!

Reader: Ruth Bowden

The Bulletins Sponsor this week is: Clare Brick, in memory of her husband, John.

STRONGER TOGETHER Grief Support Group

The next meeting times are scheduled for **Monday, March 4 at 7:00 PM**, and the second group will meet on **Thursday, March 7, at 2:00 PM**. Anyone is welcome to attend the group that best fits your schedule.

Bread and Broth Supper throughout Lent

Join us Thursdays at 6:00PM

in the Fellowship Hall for supper

6:30PM faith enrichment video series

The Chosen

(March 14 & 21)



Please sign up to bring bread, soup, or a salad so we know what food we will have each week. Call the church office or sign up in the narthex on the sign up sheet on Sundays.

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 table of Christ. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *Lamb of God White Booklet page 4*

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

Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* **ELW #803**

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

POSTLUDE *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* by Robert Buckley Farlee

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Built on a Rock* **ELW #652** VERSES 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 4 WOMEN

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 *White Booklet page 2*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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: **Exodus 20:1-17**

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in

the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

PSALM 19



¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

³Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

~ HOLY COMMUNION ~

GREAT THANKSGIVING

White Booklet page 3

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

White Booklet page 4

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit. 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

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *Brief silence.*

A: You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Almighty God, you are the re-newer of creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God, you are the judge of the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Lord, you bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord, you abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family *especially*. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Almighty God, you bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,**

where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;**

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-^lvives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-^ljoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en-^ldures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your ser-^lvant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,**

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

White Booklet page 3

The Holy Gospel according to John the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Canticle of the Turning

ELW #723

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

Teach Me, O Lord by Dave & Jean Perry

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Create in Me a Clean Heart

WOV #732

OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, **you have blessed us with many good things. Fill us with your spirit of love and courage at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**