

Habits **NOT** Heroics

Growing Faith

on Purpose

Commitment to Compassion

God's love growing through acts of grace.

March 22

Grace Lutheran Church

Worship Services: 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Prelude & Confession & Affirmation of Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Most holy and merciful God,

**C: we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

A: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

C: We diminish our respect and awe of You by not putting our relationship with you on the top of our priority list. We relegate You to being our god of convenience and comfort rather than the Creator of the Cosmos, and, in this way, we limit the power you have in our lives. Have mercy on us, O God.

A: We let other voices speak to us of fulfillment, hope and peace.

C: We have been tempted to turn away from the truth you offer us. We have doubted your presence, your power and your promise. Have mercy on us, O God.

A: We have shut our ears to your call to love and serve others with the same compassionate love and service Christ offers us.

C: We have not been diligent in staying keenly aware of how we can be a source of comfort, hope and sustenance to those who suffer, or are in despair, or deprived of what they need to live. We have not shown hospitality to the sojourner. Instead, we find security in protecting and preserving our abundant blessings for ourselves. Have mercy on us, O God.

A: We misuse and abuse the role you have given us in and over creation.

C: We exploit and squander the earth's resources without inconveniencing ourselves with consideration for the sustainability of life in the future. We assume the power of gods, but fail to seek the wisdom of God in the use of our power, focusing too much on our satisfaction in this moment rather than comprehending the full scope of our actions. We privilege our lives over the lives of other creatures without respect for the depth of the interconnectedness of all life. Have mercy on us, O God.

A: We do not always own our own problems, nor do we take enough responsibility for working to solve them.

C: We scapegoat, we make excuses, we get distracted. We do not bring them to you and open ourselves to the Spirit's guidance through unexpected voices and resources. We become discontented because we resign to empty contentment. We default to following the norm rather than clinging to the distinction of being a Child of God. Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus, the Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us into eternal life.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn *O God of Mercy, God of Light* **714**

The image shows the musical notation for the Entrance Hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: 1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and; 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost; 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for; 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus.

mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and

in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 may we each other's burdens share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 all those who live in you.

Greeting & Kyrie

page 156

P: The Grace of our . . . **C: And also with you.**

S 156

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



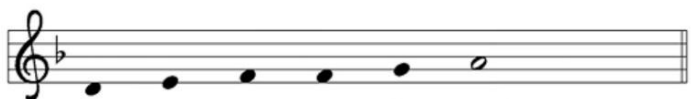
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Heavenly Father,

C: your wisdom is not our wisdom, your ways are not our ways, and so you call us to listen to your word and follow your ways. Send us the Spirit, that we will seek to align our minds with your mind and our wills with your will. Give us eyes to see what others see, but not as others see it. Open us to a view of life focused through the lens of the sacrifice of the cross; a living from the evaluative point of view of unbounded compassion, grace and love. We pray this in the name of the one whose vision of all people was informed by his unwavering hope of the liberation promised by the coming of God's Kingdom, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

First Lesson

Ruth I

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then Naomi started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that Yahweh had considered Yahweh's people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah.

But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May Yahweh deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. Yahweh grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband."

Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud.

They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."

But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?

Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?

Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were

grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of Yahweh has turned against me."

Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So Naomi said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die - there will I be buried. May Yahweh do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So, Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

L: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

130



With the LORD there is mer-cy and plen-teous re-demp-tion.

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!*

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand? R**

*But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.*

**I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord**

*more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for morning.
O Israel, hope in the Lord!*

**For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. R**

The goal of the community of the faithful must be: “a unified evaluative point of view;” “working together to endure any difficulties;” “sharing in a loving friendship;” “having good compassion;” “taking a humble evaluative point of view;” not handing back evil for evil or insult for insult, but speaking good words, because this is what you are called to do so that you might inherit a good word. For:

*"Those strive to enrich life, love,
and see good days!
Stop you tongue from speaking evil
and do not let the lips speak deceit!
But turn away from evil and do good!
Seek peace and pursue her!
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and the Lord's ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those doing evil."*

[Ps 34:12-16]

And who will be speaking evil against you if you may be earnest in the Faith? But, even if you do happen to suffer because of your righteousness, you are blessed.

*But their fear may not be your fear,
Nor may their fear be your troubles.* [Isaiah 8:12]

Keep the Lord Christ holy in your hearts. Always be ready with good reasoning for anyone who asking you about this Word in which you hope. But, respond to them with gentleness and fear, having a good conscience, so that if they are speaking evil about you, they will be put to shame by their mistreatment of you for your good lifestyle in Christ. For greater is enduring in doing good, if willed by the Will of God, than doing evil.

L: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Verse

S205b



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 9th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 9

After healing several people and having a run-in with the Jewish Religious Leadership, Jesus went about all the cities and villages teaching in the synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

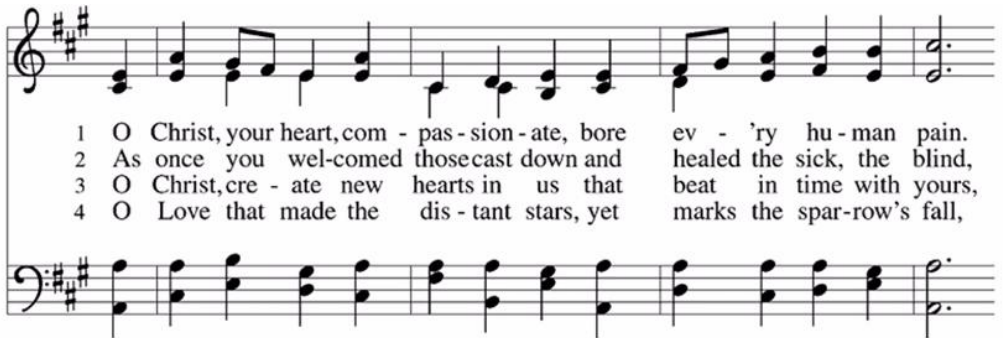
Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, ask the "Lord of the Harvest" to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

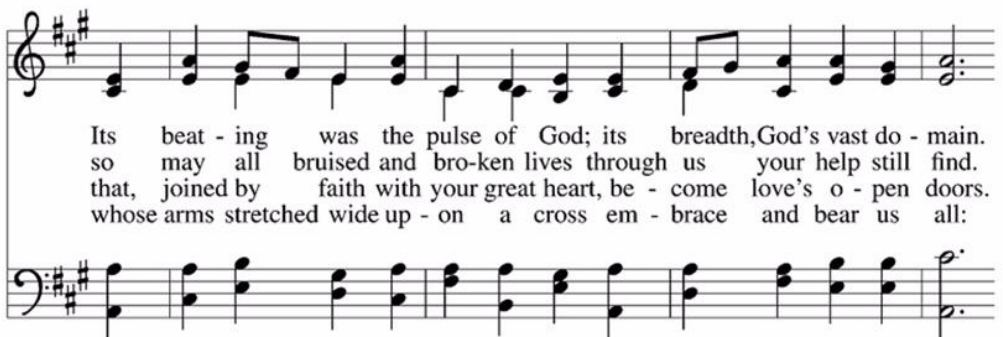
P: The Gospel of our Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *O Christ Your Heart Compassionate* 722



1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:

The heart of God, the heart of Christ combined in perfect rhyme
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep alone,
 We are your body, risen Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
 come, make your church a servant church that walks your servant ways,

to write God's love in human deeds, eternity in time.
 and help us bear another's pain as though it were our own.
 that through our life and ministry your love may be revealed.
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sacrifice of praise!

Apostles Creed

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: We do with the help of God.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived of the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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**

World Water Day Litany & Prayer

P: In the beginning, the Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters, and God commanded the waters be divided and organized in order that creation might flourish. (Genesis 1:2)

C: We praise you, O God, for you tamed the waters and turned them into the source of life.

P: The Lord says: "I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my spirit upon your offspring." (Isaiah 44:3)

C: Forgive us, O God, and inspire us to be even more faithful stewards of the waters you have given us to quench and hydrate, cleanse and wash away.

P: Jesus stood up and cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink." (John 7:37)

C: Sustain us, O God, and direct your Church to accomplish the good acts that make us notoriously a place and people who nurture and sustain all who are in need.

P: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. The Lamb will lead the faithful to springs of living water. (Revelation 7:17)

C: Fill us with a hope, O God, that empowers us to endure against the forces that oppose what is just and equitable for the sake of what is profitable or preferential. Ground us in the expectation that as it was in the beginning, so it will be in the end – all things will be under your control and as they should be – and so let us be courageous in our efforts in our time to use and allocate the gift of water in ways that reflect your priority that it bring life to all.

P: Let us pray. Gracious God,

C: We thank you for the waters of this earth; for crashing oceans and placid lakes; for the rushing mountain streams and babbling forest brooks; for spattering rain and silent aquifers in the depths of the earth. Forgive us for neglecting to be more attentive stewards of this precious resource. We are truly blessed to turn a

faucet and drink, wash, swim and water so freely without apparent limitation. Awaken our awareness of this unique blessing and stir our determination for providing this same blessing to all. Do not let us fall into the ease of a present complacency or lazy neglect of our abuses today that only build up the tragedies of tomorrow. Keep us mindful each time we turn a faucet or take a sip, of how our smallest actions can ripple out to increase what is good as well as what causes harm. Watch over those who are stressed over adequate access to water. Give wisdom to politicians and policy makers so they will legislate and fund to protect our waters. Stir the hearts of corporations and industries to care more for the health of our waterways than for the convenient disposal of their waste. In the water of baptism, you claimed us; in the water of this world, sustain us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Prayers of the Church & Passing of the Peace

Make an Offering

Great Thanksgiving

S 161

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is right . . .

S 162

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy God, we give you thanks and praise, for even in the midst of our turning away from you, you call to us . . .

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

Distribution Hymns

461, 712

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve **551**

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to share cher - pow - the a - ish - ered poor, dream life, us; God's and to we fa - help do go - vor the do in to the lov - ing Je - sus' pro - to see. claim. deed. name.

Dismissal



Sunday, March 22

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation Classes

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

Monday, March 23

7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 24

6:30 a.m. Bible Study & Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris - hybrid

3:00 p.m. Bible Study Lite - 101 w/ Pastor Chris

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris - online

Wednesday, March 25

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting Group

6:00 p.m. Bring-your-own dinner to the narthex

7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten prayer service

Saturday March 28

4:30 p.m. Property Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 29 *Palm Sunday*

Last Day to Order Easter Flowers

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation Classes



Palm Sunday

PARADE

Kids! Grab a palm and lead the parade from Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary!



March 29 8:30 or 11:00

Palm Sunday

March 29

8:30 & 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday

April 2

12:00 & 7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 3

12:00 & 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil

April 4

7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

April 5

8:30 & 11:00 am

Easter Flowers



Order by March 29th

Hyacinth \$10 Lily \$20 Tulip \$10

Daffodils \$10



GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER EGG HUNT



SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

10:30 AM AT CHURCH

SPONSORED BY THE GRACE YOUTH GROUP * YOUTH FAMILIES: CHECK YOUR EMAIL!

RSVP BY PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

BRING 2 BAGS OF CANDY PER CHILD TO SUNDAY SCHOOL
LATEST: GOOD FRIDAY * LABEL CANDY WITH FAMILY NAME
OR

WE'LL SHOP FOR YOU, VENMO \$10 PER CHILD
©KATRINA-BAUERLEIN * NOTE FAMILY NAME IN MESSAGE



Today is World Water Day. Here are a few facts about the state of the access to water globally in 2025 from the World Health Organization.

- Despite gains since 2015, 1 in 4 – or 2.1 billion people globally – still lack access to safely managed drinking water*, including 106 million who drink directly from untreated surface sources.
- 3.4 billion people still lack safely managed sanitation, including 354 million who practice open defecation.
- 1.7 billion people still lack basic hygiene services at home, including 611 million without access to any facilities.

In our liturgy, we will pray for how we steward the blessed resource of water. But as we know, *our* work and *our* hands are often part of the answers to those prayers.

This year, the focus of World Water Day is on “Water and Gender,” for in many places around the world the task of collecting water for drinking, cooking and washing, falls primarily on women and girls.

[When Jesus famously sends his disciples to find a room for the Last Supper, he tells his disciples that they will find “a man carrying a water

jar” who they are to follow – someone who would be obvious even in a crowd because how odd it would be to see a man carrying water!] In many communities, the women and girls walk many miles every day to find water that often isn't even safe to drink. This 'water walk' keeps girls out of school and women out of the workforce, trapping families in a cycle of poverty. Part of the benefit of supporting the digging of a well or another local water project is that suddenly girls have time for school and women have time to start small businesses. Not only is clean, drinkable water available, but the whole life of the village transforms.

World Water Day reminds us to see water not just as a resource, but as a human right and a gift of God's love and grace. Here at Grace today, there are three ways you can participate in good water works:

- you can **Give** to the ELCA Good Gifts water fund;
- you can **Act** by pledging to reduce your own use and impact on water resources;
- you can **Speak** for justice by signing our advocacy letter in the narthex.

Let's make sure that the 'living water' we are called by Christ to offer the world flows faithfully and freely to all God's creatures.

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Music Director*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Samantha Calamera, *Sexton*

Doug Jenkins, *Dig. Ministry* • Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

3830 Gomer St. • Yorktown Heights, NY • 10598 • 914.245.5737 • www.GraceYorktown.org