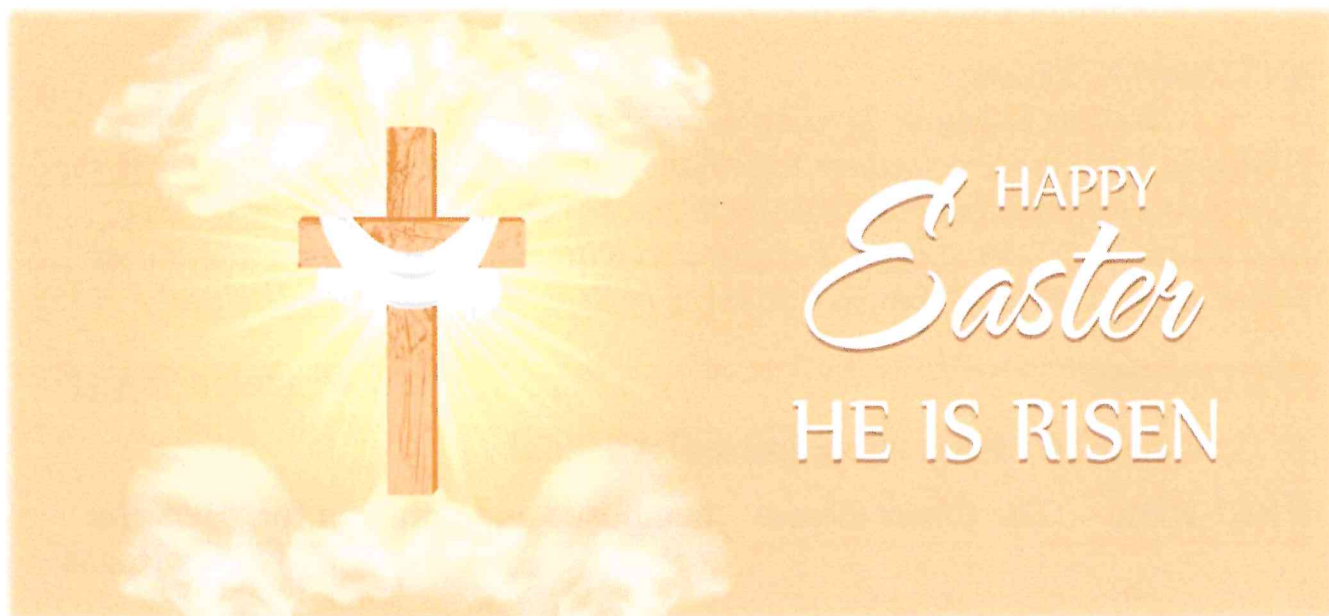


Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025



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. Wendolyn Trozzo, Interim Pastor ✝

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 with us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

P: He is risen! C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

PRELUDE *The Christ Theme* composed and arranged for “Ben-Hur”
by Niklos Rozsa

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the source of our grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN*Jesus Christ is Risen Today***ELW #365****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 (front) #138****THIS IS THE FEAST****ELW (front) #140**

*Today we sing with all the people of God.
We join in the hymn of all creation:
This is the feast of victory for our God.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING : Acts 10: 34-43

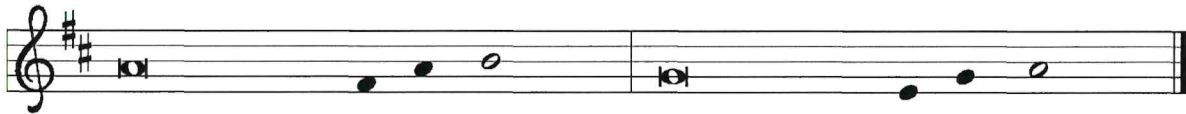
Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to

all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24



¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
“God's mercy endures forever.”**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

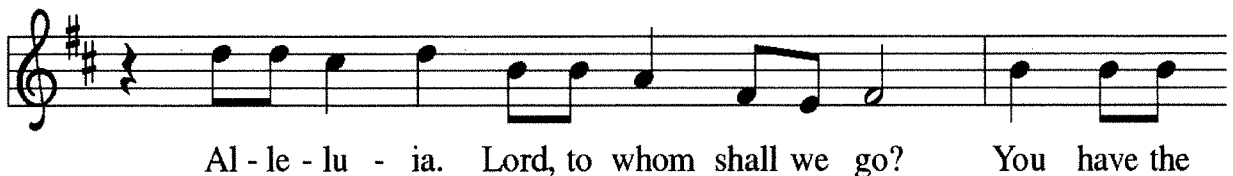
¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright* **ELW #384**

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Roll, Roll the Stone* by Joseph M. Martin

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!* **ELW #369**
Verses 1 & 4

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *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: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW (front) #144

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW (front) #144

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

We give you thanks for Jesus' coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

On 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of the Holy Trinity: in our gathering; within this meal; and in the many ways you may yourself known to your people throughout the world. May all blessing, praise, and thanks be to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving 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 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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Christ, Our Joy and Gladness

by Carlton T. Russell

COMMUNION HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

ELW #373

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 tray and return to your pew. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* ELW #367

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

POSTLUDE

Toccata

by Charles-Marie Widor

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace to love & serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

May the peace of the Lord be with you always! We are glad for your presence today. We hope you come again soon!

Have a blessed Easter!

We thank all those serving in worship today:

Reader: Kevin Thomas

The candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor is: Dick Fetter,

“In loving memory of my dear Else.”

The music sponsor this week is: Brenda Traa, to the glory of God!

Beautify your home or garden by purchasing one of the lovely sanctuary flowers after the worship service!



We will have Sunday School here at Grace during our 10:15 AM worship during Easter season April 27 - June 1. We are in need of volunteers.

Please visit link in weekly email to sign up.

Please spread the word and invite any young people you know!



19th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER

for Shore Memorial NICU

**will be hosted by WELCA and the Stitchers of
Grace Lutheran Church**

**along with our brothers and sisters from
Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon**



Friday, May 16th at 12:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be served for Shore Medical Center nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T),
diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Sunday, May 11th

Please R.S.V.P. to Roberta Blumenthal 609-927-1654 or the
Church Office 609-927-3082.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

April 20, 2025—April 27, 2025

HAPPY EASTER! 4/20/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 4/21/23

Food Pantry Closed

6:30PM Grief Support Group
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 4/22/23

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

WEDNESDAY 4/23/23

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

THURSDAY 4/24/23

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

FRIDAY 4/25/23

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

SATURDAY 4/26/23

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

2nd Sunday of Easter 4/27/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
with Children's Sunday School

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

***Corinne will be on vacation and
out of the office from April 28-May
10. Bulletins for May 4 and May 11
will be printed and emailed this
week.***