

April 27, 2025

2nd Sunday of Easter



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

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 in these 50 days of Easter season!

INTRODUCTION

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

WELCOME

Rev. Jeffrey Eaton

PRELUDE

Christ Is Risen

by Johann K. F. Fischer

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized

into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

The Day of Resurrection!

ELW #361

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

Now the Feast and Celebration

white booklet #3

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast

white booklet #4-5

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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.

At this time, children are dismissed to attend Sunday School and will return for communion.

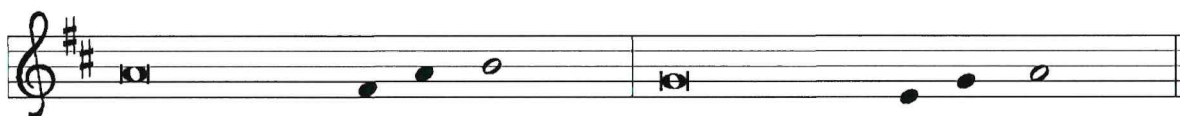
FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

PSALM 118:14-29



- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength¹ and my song,
and has become¹ my salvation.
- ¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents¹ of the righteous:**
“The right hand of the¹ LORD acts valiantly!
- ¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD¹ is exalted!
The right hand of the¹ LORD acts valiantly!”
- ¹⁷ **I shall not¹ die, but live,**
and declare the works¹ of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ The LORD indeed pun-¹ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o-¹ver to death.
- ¹⁹ **Open for me the¹ gates of righteousness;**
I will enter them and give thanks¹ to the LORD.
- ²⁰ “This is the gate¹ of the LORD;
here the righ-¹teous may enter.”
- ²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have¹ answered me**
and you have become¹ my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the build-¹ers rejected
has become the chief¹ cornerstone.

- ²³ **By the LORD has¹ this been done;
it is marvelous¹ in our eyes.**
- ²⁴ This is the day that the¹ LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be¹ glad in it.
- ²⁵ **Hosanna!¹ O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, pros-¹per our days!**
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name¹ of the LORD;
we bless you from the house¹ of the LORD.
- ²⁷ **The LORD is God and has giv-¹en us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners¹ of the altar.**
- ²⁸ You are my God, and¹ I will thank you;
you are my God, and I¹ will exalt you.
- ²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the¹ LORD is good;
God's mercy en-¹dures forever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I

will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

“Inviting In, Stepping Out”

Rev. Jeffrey Eaton

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen

ELW #375

THE 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 *That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright* by Rachel Arons
 Andrew Ehrhardt: Flute

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *As the Grains of Wheat* white booklet #10

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, "Hear us, O God," please respond with "Your mercy is great."*

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

white booklet #11

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY

white booklet #11-12

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

white booklet #12

THROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHRIST, IN CHRIST *white booklet #13*

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* *white booklet #14*

COMMUNION HYMNS *Now the Green Blade Rises* **ELW #379**

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! **ELW #380**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will have continuous communion in front of the steps today. EVERYONE IS INVITED to come down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats via the side aisle. If you are unable to come up to the front, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children or those who have not received a first communion are welcome to come for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

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.

THANKS BE TO YOU

white booklet #15

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 *Savior, Again To Your Dear Name* **ELW #534**

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

POSTLUDE *Now the Green Blade Rises* by Mark Sedio

DISMISSAL Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. **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: Jim Ehrhardt

The flowers sponsor this week is: John Staples, in memory of John and Katherine Staples.

The candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor this week is: Gay Rowland, in memory of her brother, Lawrence W. Rowland, who passed on 3/30/2025.

Special thank you to Pastor Jeffrey Eaton for leading us in worship!

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

April 27, 2025—May 4, 2025

2nd Sunday of Easter 4/27/25

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

MONDAY 4/28/25

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

TUESDAY 4/29/25

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

WEDNESDAY 4/30/25

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

THURSDAY 5/1/25

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

FRIDAY 5/2/25

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

SATURDAY 5/3/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

3rd Sunday of Easter 5/4/25

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

Joyful Noise Offering:

Somers Point Volunteer Fire Dept

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 is out of the
office Apr. 28- May 9.**