

May 18, 2025

5th Sunday of Easter



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

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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

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

WELCOME

Chris Dennis

PRELUDE

I Danced in the Morning

by J. Wayne Kerr

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 *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power* ELW #651
Verse 1, 3, 5, 7 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN, Verse 6 CHOIR

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 Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

At this time, children are dismissed to attend Sunday School and will return for the end of the service.

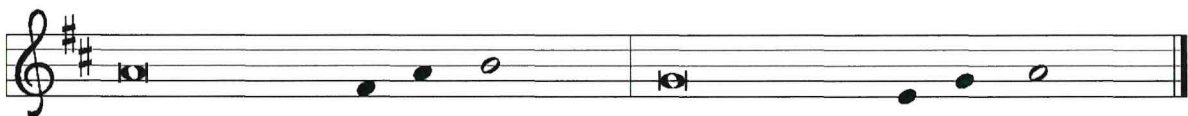
FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

PSALM 148



¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
³ **Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.**
⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
⁵ **Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,**
⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**
⁷ **Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;**
⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
⁹ **mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;**
¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**
¹¹ **sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;**
¹² **young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**
¹³ **Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.**
¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all |
faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride

adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
 “See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
 they will be his peoples,
 and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
 for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making
 all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy
 and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega,
 the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the
 spring of the water of life.”

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 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then
 revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This*

deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Chris Dennis

Please stand as you are able.

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

Love Is The Key

by Arlene Clarke

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.**

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.

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

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

ELW #380

Verse 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN

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

POSTLUDE

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

by Emanuel Vogt

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: Meg Markkanen



**The flowers sponsor this week is: Kathy Nigsch, wishing
her father, Wally Wopatek, a happy heavenly birthday!**

Special thank you to Chris Dennis for leading us in worship!

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Debbie K., Renee P., Bettie C., Diana M., Bruce H., Bonnie C., Ruth K., Lois R., Barry L., Don B., John S., Brenda T., Family of Chris D., Bob K., Ruth B., Scott B., John N., Linda S., Donna M.

Our family and friends: Alex, Jeff, Skip, Family & Friends of Tad, Donna, Tom (Ruth T.), Ric, Jeanne, Cody, Logan (Ruth B.), Marilyn (June J.), Ronna, Nadine, Todd, Drew, Regina (Corinne R.), Carrie (Ray H.), Sue (Carol L.), Linda, Dana (Edna C. & Patty D.), Bruce (Brenda T.), Jody M., Audrey M. (Mary Ann G.), Karen H. (Mary G.), Tyler, Megan (Carol G.), Family & Friends of Francis M. (Jane T.), Terrol J. (Linda S.), Barbara B., Hank (Vickie C.), Bridget K. & Patrick, George M., Ronald G., Rossanne and Ronald (Renee P.), Sandy C. & Al (Carol D.)

Those serving our country: Matthew Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN, Liam Johnson, USN

The Shores at Wesley Manor: Eleanore Guire

Please notify the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list.

**WELCA & THE STITCHERS THANK YOU FOR ALL THE ITEMS
DONATED TO THE NICU BABY SHOWER!**

It was a huge success!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8: CAPE SHORE CHORALE CONCERT
"AMERICANA"**

**Featuring American Composers
3 PM at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
30th & Bay Avenue, Ocean City**

**GRACE PLACE FOOD PANTRY is expecting a large delivery from
St. Joe's food drive and needs some helping hands!**

SATURDAY, JUNE 21 AT 10 AM

**Please join us for Coffee Hour sponsored by choir following
worship!**

Join us on Sunday, June 8, 2025
at 10 AM as Reformation Lutheran Church
Celebrates the
62nd Anniversary of Ordination of the
Reverend Jack Elstad
& the 50th Anniversaries of Ordination
of the Reverend Glenn Englehardt
and the Reverend Neil Jaggie



Our celebration will continue with a
luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.
Please RSVP for the luncheon by
Sunday, May 25, 2025. There is a sign
up sheet in the Narthex or call/email
the church at: 609-652-8431 or

reformationlutherannj@gmail.com

Reformation is located at 633 S. New York Rd,
Galloway, NJ 08205

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 18, 2025—May 25, 2025

4th Sunday of Easter 5/18/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship with
 Sunday School
Coffee Hour sponsored by Choir

MONDAY 5/19/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 6:30PM Grief Support Group
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 5/20/25

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

WEDNESDAY 5/21/25

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

THURSDAY 5/22/25

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

FRIDAY 5/23/25

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

SATURDAY 5/24/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

5th Sunday of Easter 5/25/25

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM

Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM