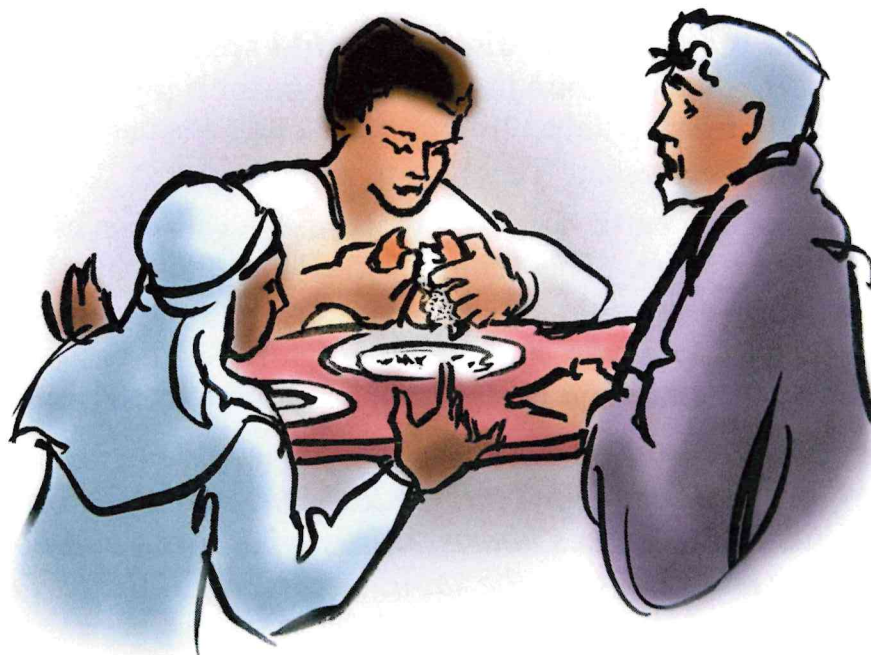


April 19, 2026

3rd 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.org

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.
Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

Reflections on Prayer in Worship

When Jesus walked the earth, his disciples could speak directly to him – to ask questions, to complain, to share their worries or their joyful amazement, to send him to someone needing help. In fact, the Lord’s Prayer was given to the disciples when they asked Jesus, “Teach us to pray!”

Jesus no longer walks this earth with us, but **Jesus gives us assurance that he hears all that we say to him.** The Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) existed before creation, and could always hear prayers, but Jesus took extra care to tell his followers that he would send them the Holy Spirit, who would always be with us, helping us to pray and bearing our prayers to the Trinity.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. – Romans 8:26-27

In worship, we pray in many ways – spoken, sung, silent; individually and together; through the psalms; prayers written years before and prayers arising in one brand new moment. We especially take time an extended time to pray, together, each week, in what are called “Prayers of the People,” “Prayers of Intercession,” or “Prayers of the Church.” The prayer of the Church is the community of saints praying together for the church to remain an active force in the world doing God’s will, and praying so that we see the signs of God’s love and continued presence. **We do this by using 5 specific prayer topics each week**, usually in this order: for the Church and its mission; for Creation; for Justice; for the Sick; for those who have Died. These five aren’t an upward limit, but a starting structure that helps us to connect with our needs and the ways that God moves in the world. **Therefore, our part in the prayer of the church is much larger than simply saying “hear our prayer.” It is caring about God’s universe, believing in the community of saints, and directing our petitions to God.**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Aria, from Rinaldo

by Handel

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Psalm 24:1-10*

I will bless the Lord at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

We will glory in the Lord; let the lowly hear of God's love and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;

Let us exalt God's name together!

I sought the Lord, who answered me.

I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me. The Lord saves!

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord and delivers them.

God is with us!

OPENING HYMN

For The Beauty Of The Earth

ELW #879

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and

word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Here I Am, Lord

ELW #574

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.

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of April is Atlantic City Rescue Mission.

OFFERING**OFFERTORY**

How Beautiful are the Feet of Them

by Handel

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

ELW #883

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, **accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *Brief silence.*

A: God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: God of justice, we thank you for giving your law to humanity. Guide and encourage all who shepherd your people in communities from preschool classrooms to the world stage. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick (*especially those on our prayer list and those we name now, out loud or in our hearts*). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Eternal Light, God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 new life. Receive the risen Lord.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. 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 via the side aisles. 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 and cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and

are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

ELW #881

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

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah

by Cohen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

We thank all those serving in worship today:

Worship Assistant: Kevin Thomas

*Special thank you to Stephen Gring for providing our
music for worship today!*



The flowers sponsor this week is: Mary Ann & Stephen Gring, expressing sincere gratitude for all the volunteers at Grace who - day in and day out - help to make the Church a welcoming community.

The candles and bulletins sponsor is: Jim Dolan, "Happy Birthday to my lovely wife, Wendy!"



20th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER
for Shore Memorial NICU
will be hosted by the Stitchers and WELCA of
Grace Lutheran Church
along with our brothers and sisters from
Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon

Friday, May 15th 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 10th

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

*We are pleased to announce that The Reverend Elizabeth Frey has
been called to and accepted the position of Pastor of Word and
Sacrament of Grace Lutheran Church!*

*Thank you to Wendy Dolan, the Call Committee, and our Church
Council for all their hard work and dedication during this
call process!*

**The food pantry thanks everyone for their generous
donations as part of the Meet & Greet last Saturday!**

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

April 19, 2026-April 26, 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter 4/19/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship
**Joyful Noise Offering: Atlantic City
Rescue Mission**

MONDAY 4/20/26

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

TUESDAY 4/21/26

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

WEDNESDAY 4/22/26

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

THURSDAY 4/23/26

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

FRIDAY 4/24/26

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


SATURDAY 4/25/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

4th Sunday of Easter 4/26/26

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
This week:
Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00
Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00


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