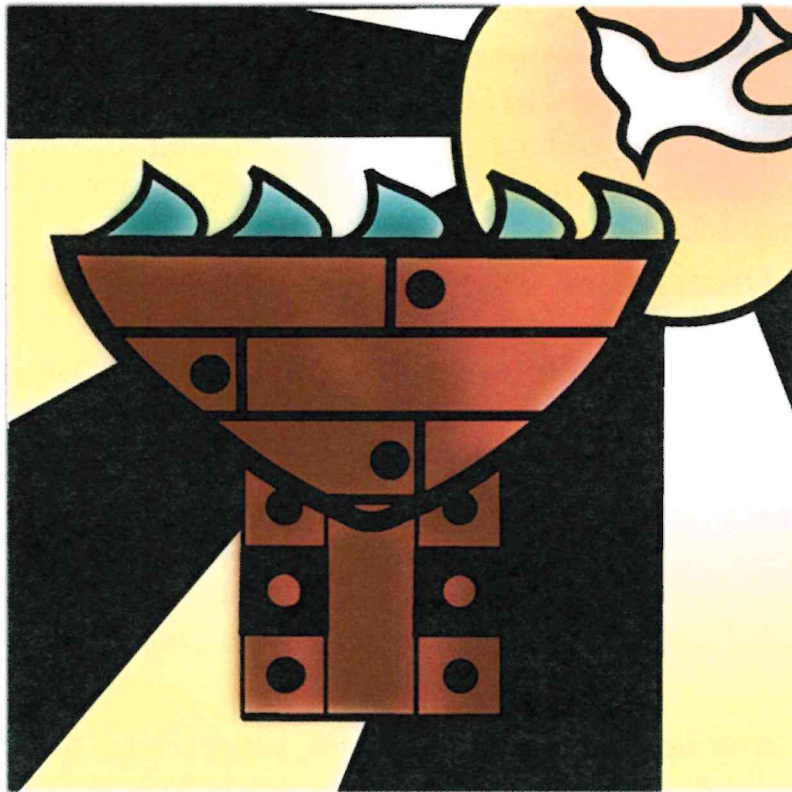


May 10, 2026

6th 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](http://www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org)

**E-mail:** [office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org](mailto: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.

*<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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 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.** This week we focus on prayer for the sick.

*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**

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

by Mark Sedio

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *based on Psalm 115*

Not to us, O LORD, not to us,

**but to your name give glory;**

**because we see your steadfast love and faithfulness.**

O People, trust in the LORD,

**God is our help and our shield.**

O all you houses and homes, trust in the LORD,

**God is our help and our shield.**

You that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD,

**God is our help and our shield.**

The LORD has been mindful of us, and will bless us;

the LORD will bless the children of God;

**those who fear the LORD will be blessed,**

**both small and great together.**

May you be blessed by the LORD,

the maker of heaven and earth.

**God is our help and our shield, our Creator and our Savior.**

Heaven is the heaven of the LORD,

but the earth God entrusted to its peoples.

**As we serve God, so we praise and bless the LORD,**

**from this time forth forevermore. Hallelujah!**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

ELW #398

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

**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.**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through 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**

*Please be seated.*

### **FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31**

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he

commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 John the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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***Come Down, O Love Divine***ELW #804****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 May is Lawson's Pride of Somers Point (U. S. Coast Guard).*

**OFFERING****OFFERTORY***Come Down, O Love Divine*

by Penny Rodriguez

*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

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW S144

### 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, which will be by intinction. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. Once you have received the wafer, you may dip it into the red wine or white grape juice before placing it into your mouth. You may then 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**

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*

**ELW #449**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

*A Trumpet Chorale*

by J. S. Bach, adapted and extended by Van Denman Thompson

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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

**We thank all those serving in worship today:  
Worship Assistant: Shirley Blankenship**



**The flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal, in memory of her husband, Larry on his birthday.**

**The candles, wine and bulletins sponsor is: Roberta Blumenthal, in honor and celebration of all mothers on Mother's Day!**



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

**Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>

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

**Sunday, May 24, following worship we will have a time  
of prayer and gratitude for the life of  
Bob Klingensmith.**



# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 10, 2026-May 17

## 6th Sunday of Easter 5/10/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Joyful Noise Offering: Lawson's Pride  
of Somers Point (U. S. Coast Guard)**

## MONDAY 5/11/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## TUESDAY 5/12/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

5:30PM CASA Training

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## WEDNESDAY 5/13/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

6:30PM Compassionate Friends

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

## THURSDAY 5/14/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

5:30PM AA 12-Step

5:30PM CASA Training

7:00PM Antique Collector's Club

7:00PM Al-Anon

## FRIDAY 5/15/26

**9:00AM Set-Up for Baby Shower**

**12:00PM Baby Shower for Shore  
Memorial NICU**

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## SATURDAY 5/16/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

## 7th Sunday of Easter 5/17/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

10:15AM Traditional Worship

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

**Mon 10:00-3:00**

**Corinne will be out of the  
office from May 12-25.**

If you are late to church and the doors to the narthex are locked when you arrive, please ring the bell outside and wait for an usher to let you in.