

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

March 31, 2023—April 7, 2023

## HAPPY EASTER! 3/31/24

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

## MONDAY 4/1/23

### **Church Office Closed**

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## TUESDAY 4/2/23

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## WEDNESDAY 4/3/23

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

## THURSDAY 4/4/23

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
7:00PM Al-Anon  
**7:00pm Special Council Meeting**

## FRIDAY 4/5/23

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

## SATURDAY 4/6/23

*No events*

## Second Sunday of Easter 4/7/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
with Children's Sunday School  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
**4:00PM Final Catechism Class at  
Reformation**

### **THRIVENT WORKSHOP**

#### A Lifetime Gift

with Shelly Halverson

\*Learn how planning ahead can  
bring peace of mind.

\*Get helpful checklists and  
instructions for last wishes.

*Thursday, April 18, 2024*

*6:30 PM at Grace Lutheran Church*

Handouts to register and receive  
the booklet are in the narthex.

**Please register by April 7.**

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024



## **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.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor † Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

**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

*Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Fanfare*

by John Cook

*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.**

**proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

---

## SENDING

---

### BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

May the God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

**ELW #365**

*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! He is risen! Rejoice and be glad.  
**He is risen indeed! 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: Mary Ann Gring**

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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**      *Lamb of God*      *white booklet page 4*

#### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to**

**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

*white booklet page 1*

#### THIS IS THE FEAST

*white booklet page 2 & 3*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...**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.*

---

#### WORD

---

#### 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."*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how 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. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to



**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** *This Joyful Easter Tide* arr. by Evelyn R. Larter

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *Create in me a Clean Heart* WOV page 732

## OFFERING PRAYER

**Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *Brief silence.*

A: You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for all theologians, preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. Be with all, especially in Palestine and Israel, experiencing famine, and those who struggle finding shelter. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has<sup>1</sup> this been done;  
it is marvelous<sup>1</sup> in our eyes.**  
<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the<sup>1</sup> LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be<sup>1</sup> glad in it.

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

*This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

<sup>13</sup>They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

*Please be seated.*

### SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

*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**