

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## April 14, 2024—April 21, 2024

### 3rd SUNDAY of EASTER 4/14/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Joyful Noise Offering: Atlantic City  
Rescue Mission**

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### MONDAY 4/15/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 4/16/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 4/17/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 4/18/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

**6:30PM Thrivent Workshop**

7:00PM Al-Anon

**7:00pm Church Council Meeting**

### FRIDAY 4/19/24

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 4/20/24

*No events*

### 4th SUNDAY of EASTER 4/21/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Fairwell Fellowship for**

**Pastor Althea Sponsored by Church  
Council**

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**4:00PM Final Catechism at Grace**

April 14, 2024

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](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.*

 <p><b>SHORE DINER</b></p>
<p>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%.</p>
<p>Shore Diner 6710 Tilton Road Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234 609-641-3669</p>

---

## GATHERING

---

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

### INTRODUCTION

*The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*This Joyful Easter Tide*

by Keith Kolander

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BABY SHOWER for Shore Memorial NICU

will be hosted by Grace Lutheran Church  
along with our brothers and sisters from  
Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon

**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM**

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 12<sup>th</sup>**

Corinne will be out of the office on vacation from April 12-30. There will be a volunteer checking mail, email, and voicemail occasionally while she is away. Please contact Pastor Althea directly for any urgent needs.

Fairwell Fellowship for Pastor Althea  
Sunday, April 21 following 10:15 Worship  
Sponsored by Church Council

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

---

### SENDING

---

### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*This Joyful Easter Tide*

**ELW #391**

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

**POSTLUDE** *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* by Mark Sedio

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

*May the peace of the Lord be with you always!*

*We are glad for your presence today.*

*We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:**

**Reader:** June Jordan

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna*

**ELW # 383**

### 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*

### THIS IS THE FEAST

*white booklet page 2 & 3*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and righteous God, **you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection 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.**

*Please be seated.*

---

### WORD

---

### FIRST READING : Acts 3:12-19

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of

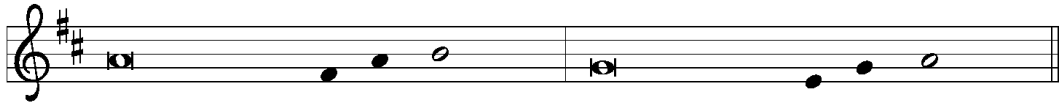


Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

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

#### Psalm 4



<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender<sup>1</sup> of my cause;  
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and<sup>1</sup> hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>“You mortals, how long will you dishon-<sup>1</sup> or my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek<sup>1</sup> after lies?”

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders<sup>1</sup> for the faithful;  
the LORD will hear me<sup>1</sup> when I call.

<sup>4</sup>Tremble, then, and<sup>1</sup> do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence up-<sup>1</sup> on your bed.

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed<sup>1</sup> sacrifices,  
and put your trust<sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, “Who will show us<sup>1</sup> any good?”  
Let the light of your face shine upon<sup>1</sup> us, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness<sup>1</sup> in my heart,  
more than when grain and<sup>1</sup> wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie<sup>1</sup> down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me<sup>1</sup> rest secure.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*white booklet page 4*

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks for Jesus’ coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 make 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*

A: O God, our Creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: O God, our Savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: O God, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, sickness, and uncertainty *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: O God, our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

---

## HOLY COMMUNION

---

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*white booklet page 3*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb, who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

### GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens*

*the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

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

*As We Gather at Your Table*

**ELW #522**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

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

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Quietly, Beneath the Dark Earth*

by Don Michael Dicie

*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: O God, our Holy One, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**