

May 4, 2025

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

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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

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Christ Is Arisen

by Anton Wilhelm Leupold

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

Christ Is Arisen

ELW #372

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

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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

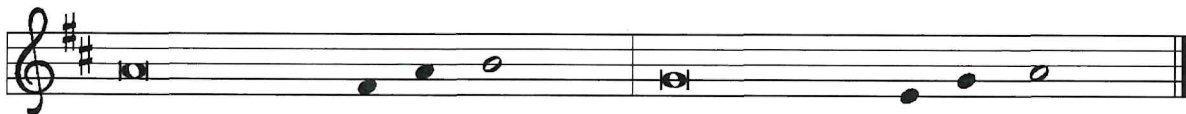
Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Following the children's sermon, children are dismissed to attend Sunday School and will return for communion.

PSALM 30



¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift-¹ ed me up
and have not let my enemies triumph¹ over me.

² O LORD my God, I cried¹ out to you,
and you restored¹ me to health.

- ³ You brought me up, O LORD, ¹ from the dead;
 you restored my life as I was going down ¹ to the grave.
- ⁴ **Sing praise to the LORD, ¹ all you faithful;
 give thanks in ho- ¹ ly remembrance.**
- ⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor ¹ lasts a lifetime.
 Weeping spends the night, but joy comes ¹ in the morning.
- ⁶ **While I felt se- ¹ cure, I said,
 "I shall never ¹ be disturbed.**
- ⁷ You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong ¹ as the mountains."
 Then you hid your face, and I was ¹ filled with fear.
- ⁸ **I cried to ¹ you, O LORD;
 I pleaded with ¹ my Lord, saying,**
- ⁹ "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down ¹ to the pit?
 Will the dust praise you or de- ¹ clare your faithfulness?
- ¹⁰ **Hear, O LORD, and have mer- ¹ cy upon me;
 O LORD, ¹ be my helper."**
- ¹¹ You have turned my wailing ¹ into dancing;
 you have put off my sackcloth and clothed ¹ me with joy.
- ¹² **Therefore my heart sings to you ¹ without ceasing;
 O LORD my God, I will give you ¹ thanks forever.**

READING: Acts 9:1-20

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days

he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

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 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 21:1-14

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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 The Church of Christ in Every Age **ELW #729**
 Verse 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 WOMEN

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.

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of May is the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Glorious Spirits Shine* setting by Crawford R. Thoburn

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

white booklet #11

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY

white booklet #11-12

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

white booklet #12

THOROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHIRST, IN CHRIST

white booklet #13

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* *white booklet #14*

COMMUNION HYMNS *I Love to Tell the Story* **ELW #661**

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen **ELW #377**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. 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. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. 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; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

THANKS BE TO YOU

white booklet #15

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

You Servants of God

ELW #825

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

POSTLUDE *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen* by Keith Kolander

DISMISSAL Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!

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: Mary Ann Gring**

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





19th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER
for Shore Memorial NICU
will be hosted by WELCA and the Stitchers of
Grace Lutheran Church
along with our brothers and sisters
from Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon



Friday, May 16th 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 11th

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

Home Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
 every eye will see him,
 even those who pierced him;
 and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
 So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 4, 2025—May 11, 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter 5/4/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship with
 Sunday School
Joyful Noise Offering:
Somers Point Volunteer Fire Dept

MONDAY 5/5/25

6:30PM Grief Support Group
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 5/6/25

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

WEDNESDAY 5/7/25

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

THURSDAY 5/8/25

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 AA 12-Step
 7:00PM Al-Anon
 7:00PM Sisters of Hope
 Narcotics Anonymous
 7:00PM Antique Collector's Club

FRIDAY 5/9/25

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

SATURDAY 5/10/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

4th Sunday of Easter 5/11/25

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

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

**Corinne will be back in
 the office May 12.**