

May 11, 2025

4th 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)

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 these 50 days of Easter season!**

## INTRODUCTION

*The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

## WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

## PRELUDE

*In Pastures Green*

by Alexander Schreiner

*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

*The Day of Resurrection!*

**ELW #361**

## 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

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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

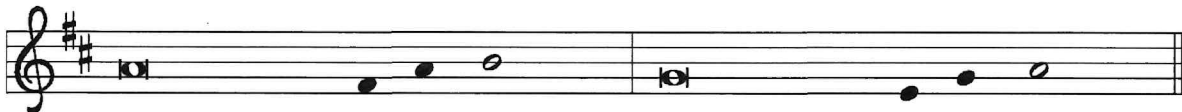
*Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.*

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

## PSALM 23



<sup>1</sup> The LORD<sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.



<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my | soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall |  
fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

### **READING: Acts 9:36-43**

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

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 King of Love My Shepherd Is*     **ELW #502**

Verses 1, 3, & 6 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 CHOIR, Verse 5 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.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**     *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*     by David Ashley White

*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*

### **THROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHRIST, 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**

*My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

**ELW #782**

*Shepherd Me, O God*

**ELW #780**

## **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**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**ELW #631**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

*My Heart Ever Faithful*

by J. S. Bach

**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: Shirley Blankenship**

**The flowers sponsor this week is: Linda Savage, to the glory of God!**

**The candles sponsor this week is: Linda Rihl, “Remembering my mom, Ruth Rutherford, on her birthday and Mother’s Day! Also, celebrating my three granddaughters, Mya, Madyn and Nora, who all have May birthdays, given by Mom Mom, Linda!”**



## Home Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.*

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”



**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 16<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 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM**

**Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM**



# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## May 11, 2025—May 18, 2025

### 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**

### MONDAY 5/12/25

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

### TUESDAY 5/13/25

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

### WEDNESDAY 5/14/25

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

### THURSDAY 5/15/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
**11:00AM WELCA: Set-Up for Shore  
 Memorial NICU Baby Shower**  
 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 Church Council Meeting**

### FRIDAY 5/16/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers  
**12:00PM Shore Memorial NICU  
 Baby Shower**  
 7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 5/17/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### 5th Sunday of Easter 5/18/25

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

### 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