

May 17, 2026

7th 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!**

*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Jeffrey Eaton

**PRELUDE**

*I Come With Joy*

by David M. Cherwien

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**                    *Rise, O Son of Righteousness*                    **ELW #657**  
 Verse 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN

**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**

**ELW S138**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*This is the Feast*

**ELW S140**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1:6-14**

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup> When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white

robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

### PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35



<sup>1</sup> Let God arise, and let God’s ene- | mies be scattered;  
let those who | hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup> **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres-  
| ence of God.**

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;  
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup> **Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who | rides the  
clouds;**

**I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!**

<sup>5</sup> In your holy habita- | tion, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

<sup>6</sup> **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into  
freedom;**

**but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**

<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,  
when you marched | through the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup> **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the <sup>1</sup> God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the <sup>1</sup> God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup> You sent a bountiful <sup>1</sup> rain, O God;  
you restored your inheritance <sup>1</sup> when it languished.

<sup>10</sup> **Your people found their <sup>1</sup> home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision <sup>1</sup> for the poor.**

<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms <sup>1</sup> of the earth;  
sing praises <sup>1</sup> to the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the <sup>1</sup> ancient heavens;  
you send forth your voice, your <sup>1</sup> mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup> Ascribe pow- <sup>1</sup> er to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is <sup>1</sup> in the skies.

<sup>35</sup> **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O <sup>1</sup> God of Israel,  
giving strength and power to your people! <sup>1</sup> Blessed be God!**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

<sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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 17th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been

glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Jeffrey Eaton

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*I Come With Joy*

**ELW #482**

Verses 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN

**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**

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. by Glenn Boettcher

*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: O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick *especially all who are on our prayer list and all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God, **receive 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. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. 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 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 All are One in Mission*

ELW #576

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

### POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune in C Major*

by David N. Johnson

**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: Meg Markkanen**

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

The Grace Stitchers and WELCA wish to thank everyone who donated items for the Shore Memorial NICU Baby Shower!

Special thank you to Pastor Eaton for leading us in  
worship today!

**CELEBRATING AMERICA**

**CAPE SHORE CHORALE**  
*and Director of Music*

**Scott J. Breiner**

**AMERICA'S**  
**250th**

*guest conductor Jason Koenig*

**Sunday, June 7, 2026 @ 3 P M**

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**30th & Bay Avenue**  
**Ocean City, N. J.**

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on  
the Arts/Department of State, and the Cape May County Board of County  
Commissioners through the Division of Culture & Heritage

Lite refreshments

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 17, 2026-May 24

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

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
10:15AM Traditional Worship

**MONDAY 5/18/26**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
6:30PM Grief Support Group  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**TUESDAY 5/19/26**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
5:30PM CASA Training  
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**WEDNESDAY 5/20/26**

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

**THURSDAY 5/21/26**

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
5:30PM CASA Training  
5:30PM AA 12-Step  
**7:00PM Church Council Meeting**  
7:00PM Al-Anon

**FRIDAY 5/22/26**


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

**SATURDAY 5/23/26**

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

**Day of Pentecost 5/24/26**

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Prayer & Gratitude Time for the Life of Bob Klingensmith**

<b>SHORE DINER</b> 
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 out of the office from May 12-25.**