

Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

**"BLESSED
are those who
have not SEEN
and yet have
come to
BELIEVE."**

John 20:29b

Grace Lutheran Church

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner

Guest Flutist: Ms. Pamela Whitman

Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

Welcome

Welcome to worship at Grace Lutheran Church. Everything you need to fully participate in our liturgical worship is contained in the bulletin.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to *belong* to the church of Jesus Christ,
 - Equipping those who *believe* as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
-

Serving in Worship Today—

Worship Assistant: Diana McArdle

Altar Guild: Brenda Traa

Sound Technicians: Jim Foreman, Shawn Welfield

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Servicemen and Servicewomen Serving Our Country: Members & Friends of Grace: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USMC; Sara Myers, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF

Hospitalized - or in need of healing: Ruth, David, & Ric Alburger, Mary Ellen Bartholomew, June Becker, Shirley Blankenship, Dave Brown, Carol Campbell, Dr. Robert Carlson, Ed Carpenter, Christine Carter, Peg Cwienk, Roy Cole, Deb Connelly, Emile DeLong, Tad Dildilian, Kimberly Frawley, Ed Gannon, Jeanne Gehring, Chris Hinnant, Bob & Dona-Lee Hughes, Pat Johnson, Darryl Kashey, Joyce Kaye, Terry Kearney, Carol Traa Keates, Nancy Keirse, Darrell Kopp, Lora, Judith & Roger Landis, Bob Loper, Susan Marich, Quinn Meldrum, Anne Moore, Tom Ostrander, Tommy Parker, Renee Pugliese, LouAnn Rest, Indigo Rose, Alan Sisson, Dana Sisson, Judy Toth, Bob Traa, Grace DiGenni Traa, Carol-Ann Tracy, George Walters, Joann Wehrhan, Joan Wisdom, & Lucy Dildilian Yannis

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Dot Crawshaw, Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Rehab@Shores of Wesley Manor: Lois Rahme

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book

Congregation responses in bold print.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

“Earth”

by Takatsugu Muramatu

Guest Flutist: Pamela Whitman

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.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom
no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your
holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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.**

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

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!!

ELW # 377

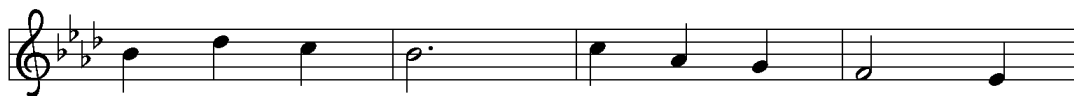
Verses 1, 3, & 5, All; Verse 2, Men; Verse 4, Women



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.

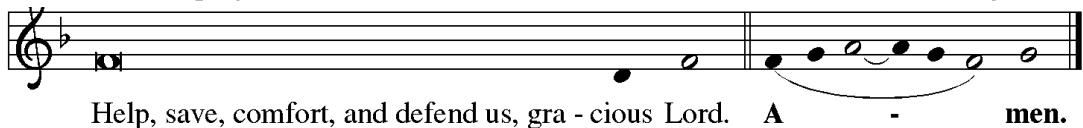
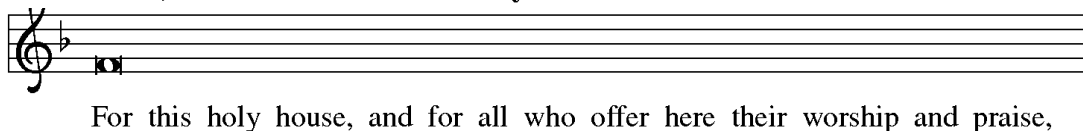
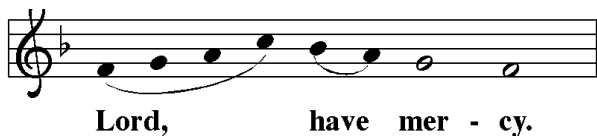
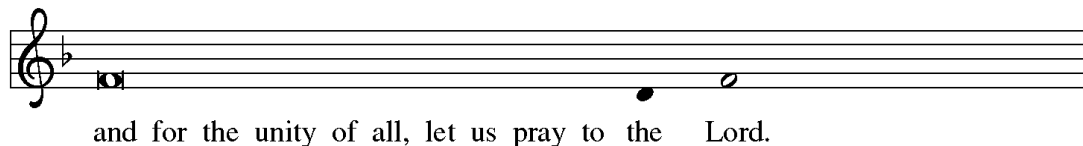
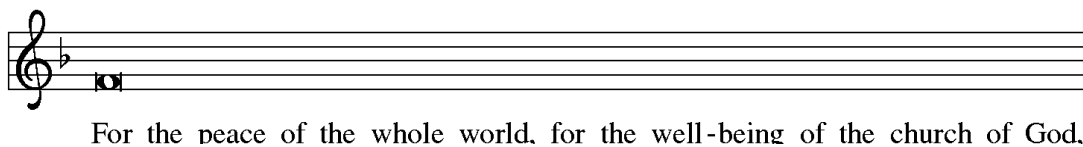
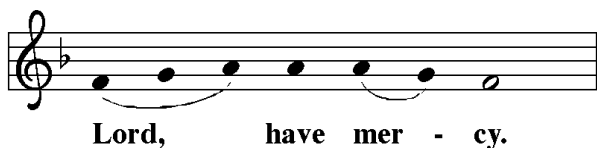
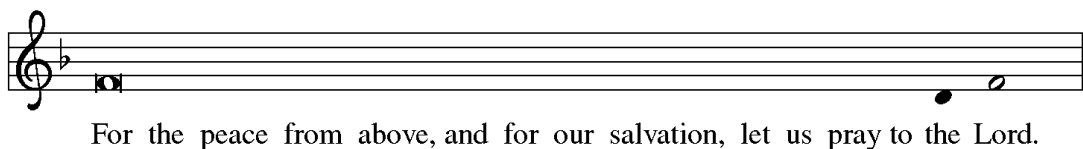


Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.**

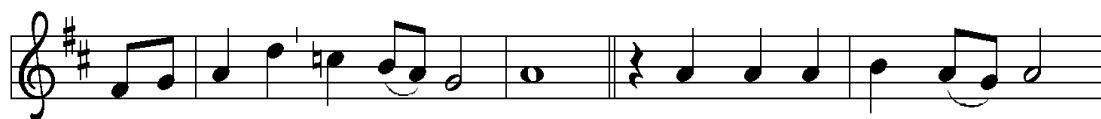
KYRIE



THIS IS THE FEAST



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



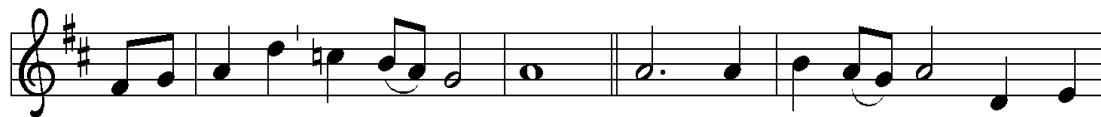
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

brief silence

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection.

By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through 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

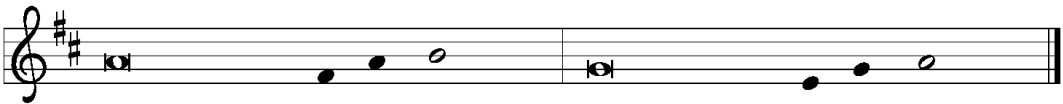
FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

A reading from Acts

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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



PSALM: Psalm 133

¹How good and how pleas- | ant it is,
when kindred live togeth- | er in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- | on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar | of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the | hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for- | evermore.

SECOND READING: First John 1:1—2:2

A reading from First John.

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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.

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to St John, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Please be seated

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk By Faith

ELW # 635

Verses 1, 3, & 5, All; Verse 2, Men; Verse 4, Women



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.



APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

WEEKLY OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

“Nightblooming” from Green Places by Gary Schocker

Please stand as your are able



PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Pastor: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Brief silence.

Leader: You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that we may all testify to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Your majesty is known throughout all of creation. As we get close to Earth Day, we pray for all places you have created. Restore bodies of water, cleanse the air, and provide water in dry places. Give your whole creation the promise of new life.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we may provide for the needs of others who are struggling, hungry, or in any kind of need. *Especially those we name....*

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: You give us the gift of fellowship with one another in this faith community at Grace. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we may live in love for one another and rejoice in our ministry.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise all of our prayers to you, both spoken and unspoken, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia
Music is located on the next page

ELW # 382

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE

Earth and All Stars

by Keith Kolander

DISMISSAL

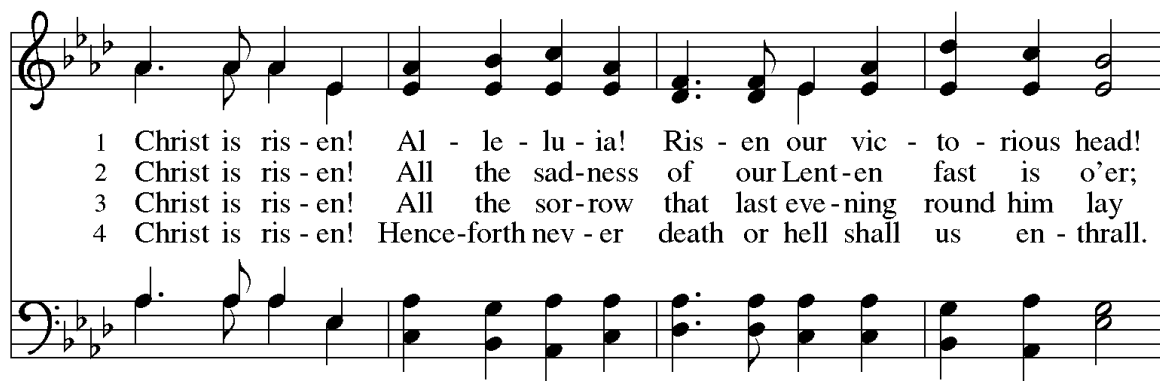
Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved.

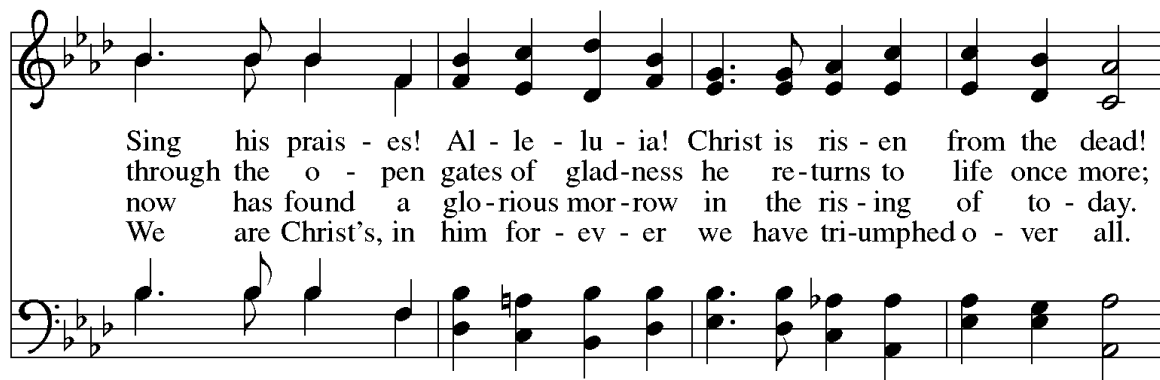
SENDING SONG

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

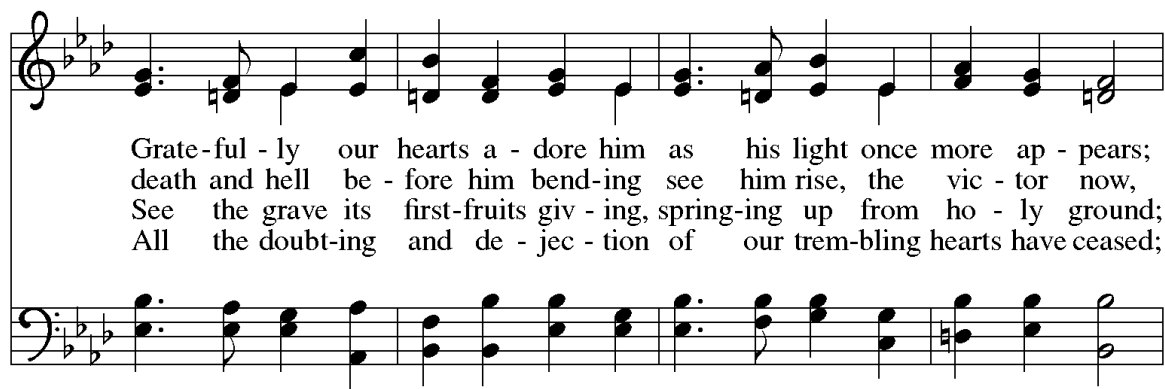
ELW # 382



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
 2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
 3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
 4 Christ is ris - en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
 through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more;
 now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.
 We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
 death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
 See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;
 All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
 an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
 Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

EARTH DAY VIRTUAL CONCERT

April 22 6:00 PM

**GO TO <https://viewstub.com/Earth-Concert>
to reserve your tickets.**

“Earth” features **Flutist Pamela Whitman** and her **Playmates Quartet** in classical, popular and original music inspired by nature.

Enjoy music by Claude Debussy, flutist Gary Schocker, Takatsuga Muramatsu, Henri Mancini, Eugene Magalif and new age music by Pamela Whitman and Rich Kurtz.

The concert will be followed by a Q&A chat with composer Eugene Magalif, whose work “Colibri” (Hummingbird) will be highlighted in the concert.

**Reserve tickets now on a donation basis. Can't make it on April 22?
Use your ticket to view the performance on-demand.**

The Playmates: Scott Breiner - Piano and Digital Organ;
Rich Kurtz - Bass; Jason Koenig - Drums



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



FOR
 SHORE MEDICAL CENTER
 WEDNESDAY August, 11th @ 12 o'clock noon
 Hosted by
 Grace Lutheran Church Women

SHOWER GIFT IDEAS!

NEWBORN to SIZE 2 Outfits - Receiving Blankets
 Hand Crocheted or Knitted Items
 Onesies - Bibs - Diapers
 Wash Cloths and Towels



Unwrapped gifts for **NEWBORNS** through **SIZE 2** can be brought to the Church Office or left in the box located in the Narthex (Lobby) by Sunday, May 10th.

The Lutheran Church Women will set-up and display all of the gifts on

Monday, August 9th at 12 noon

Representatives from Shore Memorial Hospital will join us to accept the gifts, then take them to the hospital for distribution.

These items will be given to disadvantaged mothers when they take their babies home.

The entire congregation is encouraged to participate.



RSVP by Friday, August 6th.
 Contact: Bettie Cross 646-4495



Events This Week - April 11 - 18, 2021

Sunday 4/11 Second Sunday of Easter
 8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge
 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service

Monday 4/12
 9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
 7:00 pm - AA Meeting - Social Hall

Tuesday 4/13
 9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
 6:30 pm - NA
 7:00 pm - Support Team Meeting

Wednesday 4/14
 9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall
 7:30 pm - Compassionate Friends

Thursday 4/15
 5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday 4/16
 10:30 am - Grace Stitches

Saturday 4/17

Sunday 4/18 Third Sunday of Easter
 8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge
 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
 Holy Communion



2021 FLOWER CHART is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Available for weekly dedications are Candles, Sanctuary Flowers, Bulletins, Wine & Anthems. Please sign your name next to the date and item on the chart you wish to have dedicated in the bulletin.

Be sure to fill out the payment envelope with all the information for the bulletin, a week before (or sooner) your desired date, place it in the Offering plate or bring to the church office.

Available Dedications on the Flower Chart

4/18 - Bulletins, Wine, Music
 4/25 - Candles, Flowers, Bulletins,
 Wine, Music
 5/2 - Candles, Bulletins, Wine, Music
 5/9 - Candles, Flowers, Bulletins, Wine,
 Music
 5/16 - Candles, Bulletins, Wine, Music
 5/23 - Candles, Flowers, Bulletins, Music
 5/30 - Bulletins, Wine, Music

Dedications

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In Loving Memory of
 Diane Carlson
 Given by Bob and Ingeborg Carlson

CANDLES

In Memory of Jeannie Carlson's Birthday
 Given by Brenda and Bob Traa