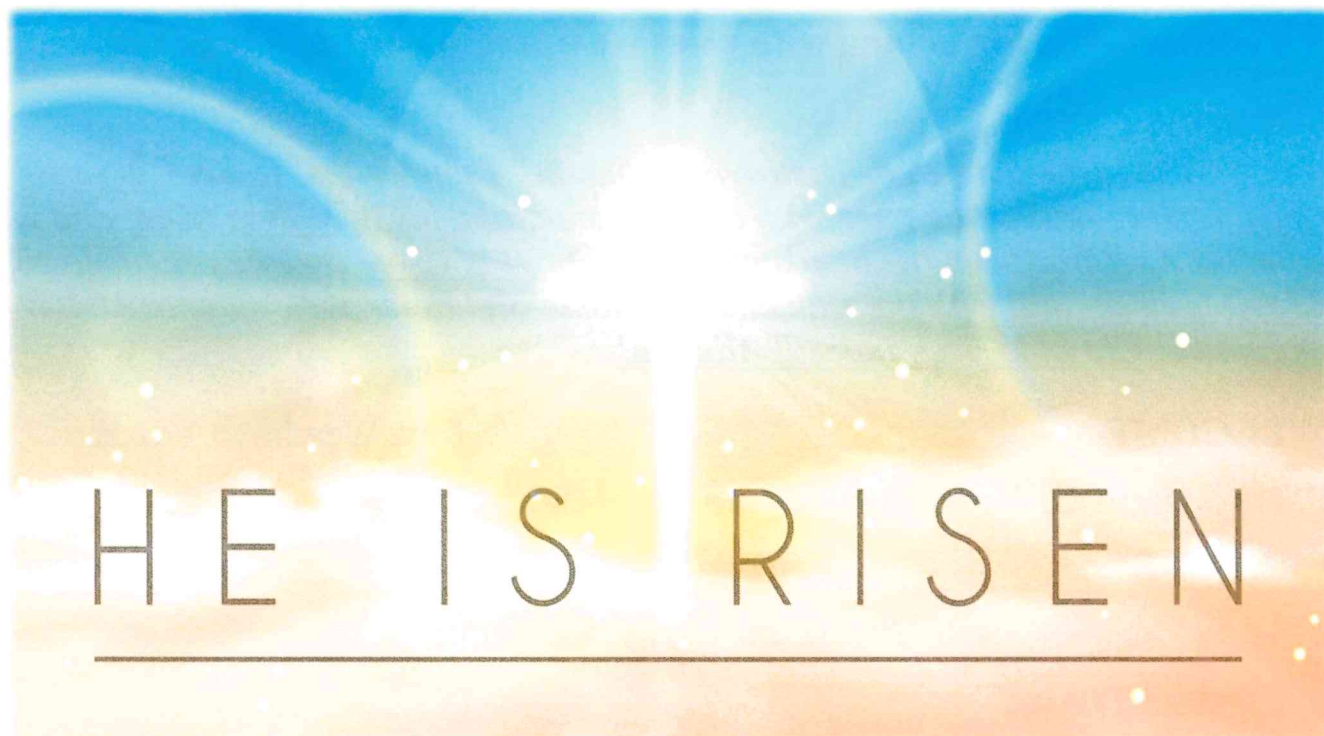


Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026



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

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Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo, Interim Pastor †

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 with us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

P: He is risen! C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

PRELUDE

Entrada Festiva

by Flor Peeters

Please stand as you are able.

EASTER LITANY

He is risen! We shout again this year.

The unbridled joy of the resurrection, the promise of eternal life is ours.
For many, Easter is a celebration out of context.

In Sunday School, there is no lesson for Holy Week.

The kids usually go from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

To Easter excitement and happiness, with nothing in between.

They are little ones. It is understandable to minimize the scary stuff for them.

But what about grownups? Should we skip the hard parts?

What does Easter even mean without the hard parts?

It is like so many other things in life: The high points mean much more when they are contrasted with low moments.

Life is a roller coaster ride of ups and downs.

And that is true for all of us; no one escapes.

So why can't we embrace that reality, embrace our Good Fridays, confident that better times are ahead?

And they will be all the sweeter because of what we went through to get there?

Giving birth is like that. A time of great suffering to endure.

Followed by unspeakable joy when the baby is born.

It's human nature to cut right to the happy ending.

And bypass the sadness entirely.

But remember: Jesus didn't bypass the sadness.

Jesus lived a fully human life, with tragedies as well as triumphs.

Exhaustion as well as energy, disappointment along with satisfaction.

And, as with us, death as a punctuation mark.

Thanks to God in Jesus, death is a comma and not a period.

And the next punctuation is an exclamation point.

Abundant life forever! Eternal union with our God!

Easter morning, shining brightly against the dark backdrop of the tomb.

May we stop fearing life's downturns, and instead see them as backdrops for a glorious future.

In the company of the God of beautiful surprises, we say, Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

GATHERING HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

ELW #365

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.**

THIS IS THE FEAST

ELW (front) #140

Today we sing with all the people of God.

We join in the hymn of all creation:

This is the feast of victory for our God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has | this been done;**
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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 Matthew the 28th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

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

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

ELW #382

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 ANTHEM *This Joyful Eastertide* by Ian Higginson

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!* **ELW #369**
Verses 1

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...**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.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Gathered at the empty tomb, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Lord, in your mercy," please respond with, "hear our prayer."

P: Into your hands gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your son, Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW (front) #144

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW (front) #144

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

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

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

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. 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 and 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL

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 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* **ELW #367**

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

POSTLUDE

Toccata by Charles-Marie Widor
Played in honor of Dick Fetter.

DISMISSAL Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace to love & serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*May the peace of the Lord be with you always! We are glad
for your presence today. We hope you come again soon!*

Have a blessed Easter!

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Reader: Edna Cordery

The flowers sponsor is: Scott Breiner
*The Easter flowers are given in honor of our “dedicated”
Grace choir members by their fearless leader, Scott!*

**The wine and bulletins sponsor is: Roberta Blumenthal, in memory of
her mother, June Stieska.**

Saturday, April 11 at 5:00 PM

Meet & Greet Italian Dinner with Pastoral Candidate

Sunday, April 12 at 10:15 AM

Pastoral Candidate will lead worship and preach, followed by a
Congregational Meeting and vote. There is no 8:00 AM worship on
that Sunday. We need everyone in attendance at 10:15 and at the
Congregational Meeting.

**20th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER
for Shore Memorial NICU**



**will be hosted by The Stitchers and WELCA of
Grace Lutheran Church
along with our brothers and sisters from
Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon**

Friday, May 15th 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 10th
Please R.S.V.P. to Roberta Blumenthal 609-927-1654 or the
Church Office 609-927-3082.

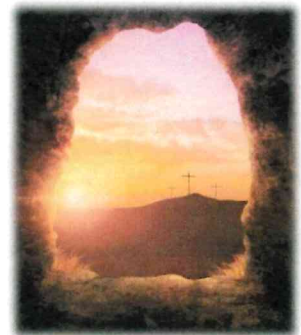
“He is not here. He has been raised, as he said.”

Matthew 28:6

This is one of the most important statements of Matthew’s Gospel. “*He is not here*” recognizes Jesus’ bodily resurrection. For if Jesus had been spiritually raised, the angel would have said, “*He is now everywhere.*” But when the angel says instead, “*He is not here,*” and soon after adds, “*He is going ahead of you to Galilee, and there you will see him*” (v. 7), the angel teaches that Jesus still walks the earth. He is not **here**, he is **there**, and he is going over there. It will not be until the ascension, that the risen Jesus will take his physical leave from the world.

“*He has been raised.*” Four amazing English words. The gospel and our Christian hope rests on the truth or falsity of these four words. If these words are a subterfuge, the whole Christian belief system comes crashing down, and deserves to, because who wants to live, and especially die for a lie. If these words are true, however, everything really important falls into place. “*He has been raised*” tells us that God is active and not absent. “*He has been raised*” points to the one who did the raising—the one whom Jesus called Father. And if God raised Jesus, God can also raise us.

“*So as he said.*” Jesus’ words and promises are true. Jesus’ preaching and teaching throughout Matthew’s Gospel—his Sermon on the Mount, his Lord’s Prayer, his teaching on discipleship and parables of the kingdom—has been vindicated by God. By raising Jesus, God hereby says that Jesus’ words and actions portraying God have been **right**. The resurrection validates what Jesus was and now is. Jesus’ words and teachings are not only to be treasured, they are to be transmitted to others who need to hear them. The resurrection reflects the Lord’s Prayer itself when it says, “*Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.*” That is one of the most powerful petitions we can ever pray and say, all because of Easter, when God shook open the door of a sealed tomb.



“He has been raised from the dead.”

Matthew 28:7

Portions of today’s liturgy are from Pastor Rickards.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK April 5, 2025–April 12, 2025

HAPPY EASTER! 4/5/24

10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 4/6/23

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 4/7/23

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 4/8/23

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

6:30PM Compassionate Friends

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 4/9/23

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

5:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

6:00PM AA 12-Step

7:00PM Al-Anon

7:00PM Antique Collector’s Club

FRIDAY 4/10/23

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 4/11/23

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

**5:00PM Meet & Greet Italian Dinner
with Pastoral Candidate**

2nd Sunday of Easter 4/12/23

10:15AM Traditional Worship

Led by Pastoral Candidate

**Congregational Meeting Following
Worship**

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00