

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

April 7, 2024—April 14, 2024

2nd SUNDAY of EASTER 4/7/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum Group
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
 4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
4:00PM Catechism Final Class at Reformation

MONDAY 4/8/24

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

TUESDAY 4/9/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA

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

WEDNESDAY 4/10/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
7:00PM Financial Support Meeting
 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 4/11/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
 7:00PM Al-Anon
7:00pm Facilities Meeting
7:00PM Antique Club

FRIDAY 4/12/24


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

SATURDAY 4/13/24

No events

3rd SUNDAY of EASTER 4/14/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
 8:45AM Adult Forum Group
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
 Joyful Noise Offering
 4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous


<p>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%.</p>
<p>Shore Diner 6710 Tilton Road Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234 609-641-3669</p>

April 7, 2024

2nd 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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Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor † Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

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 Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Dunlap's Creek (We Walk by Faith) by James Biery

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.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.



The flowers sponsor this week is: Dr. & Mrs. Carlson, in loving memory of loved ones.

The candles sponsor this week is: Kathy Ruffenach, in loving memory of Ruth Rumble on her 91st birthday, from the Ruffenach, Rumble & Kellenberger Families!

Special thank you to WELCA for the
Easter Jelly Bean Prayer and jelly bean treats!



THRIVENT WORKSHOP

A Lifetime Gift with Shelly Halverson

- *Learn how planning ahead can bring peace of mind.
- *Get helpful checklists and instructions for last wishes.

Thursday, April 18, 2024

6:30 PM at Grace Lutheran Church

Handouts to register and receive the booklet are in the narthex.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

ELW #376

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

POSTLUDE

Judas Maccabaeus (Thine Is the Glory)
by Emily Maxson Porter

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

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 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* **ELW # 363**

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

white booklet page 1

THIS IS THE FEAST

white booklet page 2 & 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

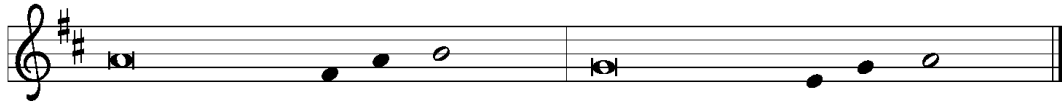
While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

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 133



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

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up-¹ on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar¹ of his
robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the¹ hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for-¹evermore.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2

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

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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

white booklet page 4

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.

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

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk by Faith

ELW #635

VERSE 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 4 MEN

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *We Will Remember You* by Gilbert M. Martin
from the cantata: Christ the Crucified

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in me a Clean Heart* WOV page 732

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.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed, let us pray
for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *Brief silence.*

A: We pray for your church. As you drew near to the disciples, draw
near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed
and we witness your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for all of creation. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and
all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend