

April 26, 2026

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.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!**

*Reflections on Prayer in Worship*

**When Jesus walked the earth, his disciples could speak directly to him** – to ask questions, to complain, to share their worries or their joyful amazement, to send him to someone needing help. In fact, the Lord’s Prayer was given to the disciples when they asked Jesus, “Teach us to pray!”

Jesus no longer walks this earth with us, but **Jesus gives us assurance that he hears all that we say to him.** The Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) existed before creation, and could always hear prayers, but Jesus took extra care to tell his followers that he would send them the Holy Spirit, who would always be with us, helping us to pray and bearing our prayers to the Trinity.

*<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

*Romans 8:26-27*

**In worship, we pray in many ways** – spoken, sung, silent; individually and together; through the psalms; prayers written years before and prayers arising in one brand new moment. We especially take time to pray together, each week, in what are called “Prayers of the People,” “Prayers of Intercession,” or “Prayers of the Church.” The prayer of the Church is the community of saints praying together for the church to remain an active force in the world doing God’s will, and praying so that we see the signs of God’s love and continued presence. **We do this by using 5 specific prayer topics each week**, usually in this order: for the Church and its mission; for Creation; for Justice; for the Sick; for those who have Died. These five aren’t an upward limit, but a starting structure that helps us to connect with our needs and the ways that God moves in the world. **Therefore, our part in the prayer of the church is much larger than simply saying “hear our prayer.” It is caring about God’s universe, believing in the community of saints, and directing our petitions to God.** This week we focus on prayer for the sick.

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.*

*1 Timothy 2:1-2*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

**PRELUDE**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us*

by Robert J. Hughes

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *based on Psalm 23, “the Message” translation*

**GOD**, you are our shepherd! In your presence we don't need a thing.

**You give rest in lush meadows,  
you find us quiet pools to drink from.**

True to your word,  
you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.

**Even when the way goes through Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.**

**The crook of your staff makes us feel secure.**

You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.

**You revive my drooping head;  
our cups brim with blessing.**

Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.

**I find myself back home in the house of GOD  
for the rest of my life. Amen! Alleluia!**

**OPENING HYMN**

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

**ELW #614**

**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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:42-47**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

### **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been

called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

## GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes

ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.<sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”<sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.<sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them.<sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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**

*Healer of Our Every Ill*

**ELW #612**

**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**            *The King of Love My Shepherd is*            by Robert Lee

*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: God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: God of justice, we thank you for giving your law to humanity. Guide and encourage all who shepherd your people in communities from preschool classrooms to the world stage. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick (*especially those on our prayer list and those we name now, out loud or in our hearts*). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**  
*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Eternal Light, God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Lord in your mercy, **hear 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**

*How Long, O God?*

**ELW #698**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

*Postlude in D Major*

by C. Armstrong Gibbs

### **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: Sharon Ehrhardt**

**The flowers sponsor this week is: John Staples, in memory of John and  
Katherine Staples.**



***Pastor Wendolyn's last Sunday with us will be  
June 7.***

***Pastor Elizabeth Frey's first Sunday with us will be  
June 14th.***

**20th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER**  
for Shore Memorial NICU  
will be hosted by the Stitches and WELCA of  
Grace Lutheran Church along with our brothers and sisters from  
Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon  
Friday, May 15<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 10<sup>th</sup>

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

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## April 26, 2026-May 3

### 4th Sunday of Easter 4/26/26

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

### MONDAY 4/27/26

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

### TUESDAY 4/28/26

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

### WEDNESDAY 4/29/26

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

### THURSDAY 4/30/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
5:30PM AA 12-Step  
7:00PM Al-Anon

### FRIDAY 5/1/26

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

### SATURDAY 5/2/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### 5th Sunday of Easter 5/3/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Baptism of Banks Stewart &  
Ryan Stewart**

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**This week:**

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

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

### 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