

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

March 26, 2023—April 2, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent 3/26/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Service of the Word with
Children's Sunday School
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
PASTOR'S DAY OFF

MONDAY 3/27/23

9-11:30 Food Pantry
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
PASTOR'S DAY OFF

TUESDAY 3/28/23

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

WEDNESDAY 3/29/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:30 Thrivent Workshop: Savvy Tax
Strategies
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
PASTOR'S DAY OFF

**In case of emergency, Pastor Althea
may be contacted on her cell phone:
484-345-0399.**

THURSDAY 3/30/23

9:00-11:30 Food Pantry
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
**6:00PM Soup Supper/Video &
Discussion**
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 3/31/23

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

SATURDAY 4/1/23

No events

Palm Sunday 4/2/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
10:15AM Service of The Word
with Children's Sunday School
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

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

March 26, 2023 Fifth Sunday in Lent



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
E-mail: office@gracelutheranspnj.com castbiz.net

Rev. Althea Albright, 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

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

by Max Drischner

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge our need to turn back to God and for God's mercy and grace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we hurt your creation instead of being good stewards; we struggle with consequences and pain and you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion or empathy. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that all may receive life. This is God's promise for you! God embraces you with

WE'RE GOING TO BAYFEST!

We hope you will sign up to join Pastor Althea in being part of a church advertising table this year at Bayfest in Somers Point on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

We have divided up the day into time slots. Sign up by yourself or with a friend, family member, or spouse.

Time slots are: 7:45am-10am, 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm, 2pm-4pm, 4pm-5:30pm. Pastor would like 2-3 people to join her in each time slot as we represent our church. Please call the church office or look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex (lobby in the rear of the sanctuary).

April Worship Assistants:

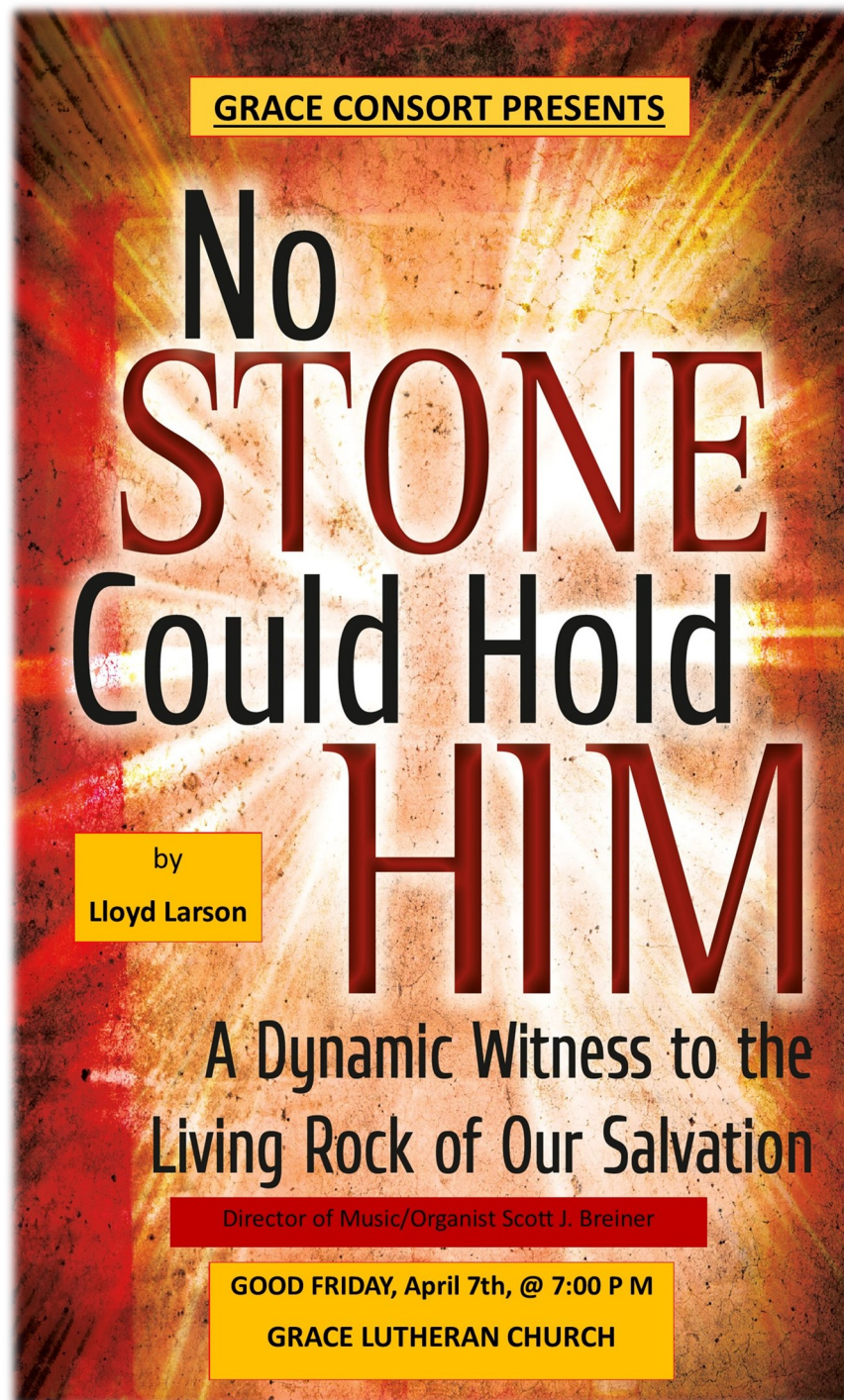
4/2 Corinne Rhodes
4/9 June Jordan
4/16 Meg Markkanen
4/23 Shirley Blankenship
4/30 Stephen Gring

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM
FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-2:00PM
THURS varies



divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and refreshes you in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* ELW #886
VERSES 1, 3 & 6 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 4 CHOIR, VERSE 5 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.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Take a brief moment to greet someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate, no need to feel pressured to touch or shake hands.

KYRIE *front of the red ELW hymnal on pages 138-139*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of

bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

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

PSALM 130



¹Out ¹of the depths

I cry to ¹you, O LORD;

²O LORD, ¹hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my ¹supplication.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

8:00AM and 10:15AM worship with palms and service of healing and anointing. (No Adult Forum Sunday School this day at 8:45AM.)

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

12:00PM (noon) Worship with Holy Communion

6:00PM Bread and Broth Supper

6:30PM Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

12:00PM (noon) Worship Service

7:00PM *No Stone Could Hold Him!* by Lloyd Larson

Choral Cantata Concert and Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

8:00AM and 10:15AM Celebration Worship Service with Holy Communion

(No Adult Forum Sunday School this day at 8:45AM.)

The Church Office will be CLOSED on April 6, 2023
in observance of Good Friday.

Pastor Althea will be on Easter vacation April 10-11, 2023.

Please call her cell phone directly with any pastoral emergencies or hospitalizations.





WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are a visitor *please fill out a VISITOR CARD in the pews if you are new to our church.* Pastor Althea would love to meet you and get in touch with

BABY SHOWER

for Shore Memorial NICU

will be at Grace Lutheran Church

Friday, May 19 at 12:00 PM

Lunch will be served for Shore

Medical nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing
(preemie-2T),

diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Friday, May 12



³If you were to keep watch¹ over sins,
O LORD,¹ who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you¹ is forgiveness,
in order that you¹ may be feared.**

⁵I wait for you, O LORD;¹ my soul waits;
in your word¹ is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch¹ for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch¹ for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is¹ steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plen-¹teous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall¹ redeem Israel
from¹ all their sins.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8: 6-11

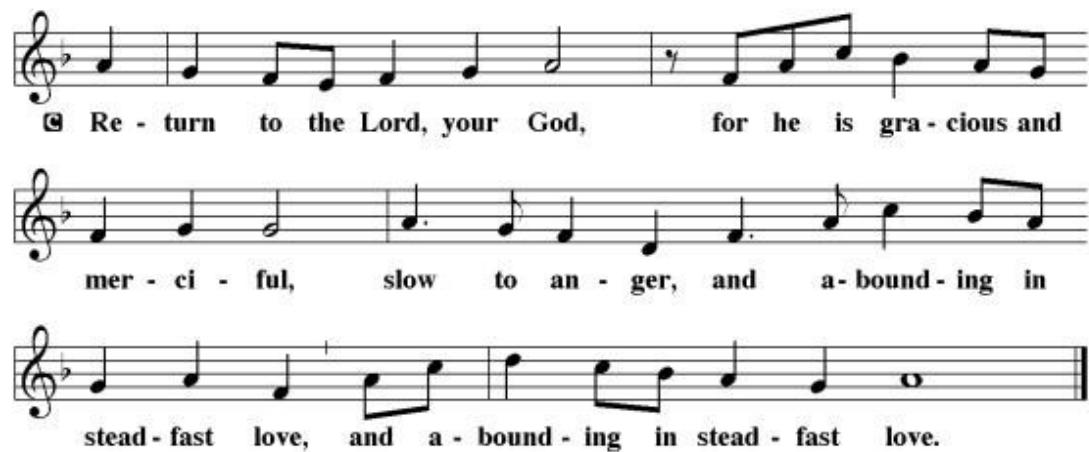
For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to John the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 11: 1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all

SENDING BLESSING

May God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

You Are the Way

ELW #758

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

POSTLUDE

Canticle of Praise on AZMON

arr. By Alice Jordan

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

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: Mary Ann Gring

Altar Guild: Brenda, Clare, Marleigh, and Ruth



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oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

C: We are reminded in the story of Lazarus that you experienced many human emotions. You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness, especially all those we name aloud and in our hearts... . You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

M: Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

M: You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

C: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(sung)* *Celebration Hymnal p.631*

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

Please stand as you are able.

right.” ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a

stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.”⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children are dismissed for Sunday School.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

ELW #333

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

Wondrous Love

setting by Carson P. Cooman

Please stand as you are able.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, our source of eternal life. **Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

C: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *Brief silence.*

C: You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

M: Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet, plants and animals, water systems, and the air all around. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

M: You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of