

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

April 9, 2023—April 16, 2023

## HAPPY EASTER! 4/9/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## MONDAY 4/10/23

### **Church Office Closed**

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## TUESDAY 4/11/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry

### **12:00PM WELCA**

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

## WEDNESDAY 4/12/23

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

## THURSDAY 4/13/23

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

## FRIDAY 4/14/23

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

## SATURDAY 4/15/23

*No events*

## Second Sunday of Easter 4/16/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
with Children's Sunday School  
JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
*Fellowship Hour will be held on 4/30  
so that we may welcome and meet  
our new members.*

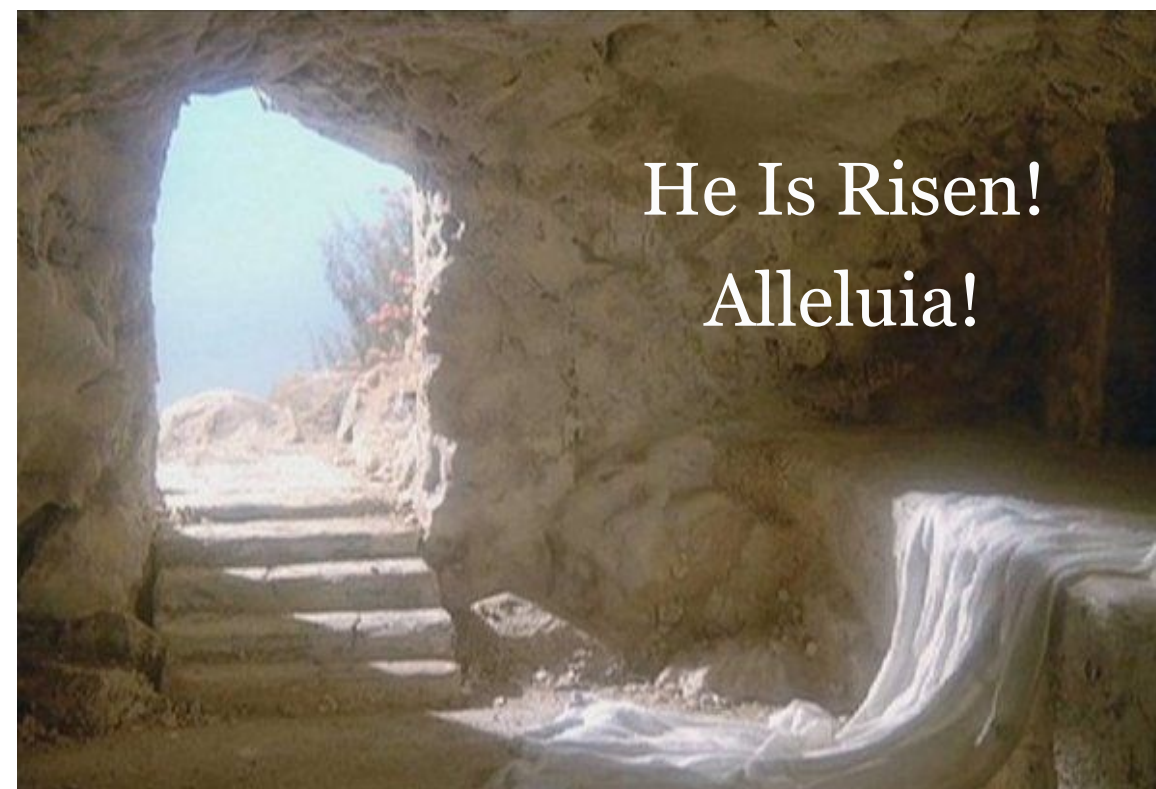
### **SHORE DINER**

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

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023



He Is Risen!  
Alleluia!

## **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.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.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

*This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Christ Lag In Toderbanden* by Johann Ludwig Krebs

*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.**

---

## SENDING

---

Christ healed many, defeated demons, and taught the disciples to love and serve others.

**We are called to be God’s hands and feet in the world.**

Christ suffered and died so that we may live.

**Let us sing praises for the gift of God’s grace and forgiveness.**

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### BLESSING

May Almighty God, Christ our Lord, + and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

ELW #365

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

### POSTLUDE

*Toccata*

by Charles-Marie Widor

### 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!

***Have a blessed Easter!***

**We thank all those serving in worship today:**

**Reader:** June Jordan

**The candles sponsors today** are The Rumble, Ruffenach, & Kellenberger Families, in loving memory of Ruth Rumble on her 90th birthday!

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #.SAS002821 New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

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 and know Christ, broken and poured out for you. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**                      *Lamb of God*                      *ELW page 146*

**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.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

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**                      *The Day of Resurrection!*                      *ELW # 361*

**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**                                              *front of red ELW hymnal page 147-148*

**THIS IS THE FEAST**                                              *front of red ELW hymnal page 149*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together...**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.*

**WORD**

**FIRST READING : Acts 10: 34-43**

*Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, “receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does

what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

**Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24**



<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God’s mercy endures forever.  
<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare,**  
**“God’s mercy endures forever.”**  
<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.  
<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**  
**“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”**  
<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”  
<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,**  
**and declare the works of the LORD.**  
<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.  
<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*ELW hymnal page 144*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 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 may yourself known to your people

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence.*

A: You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for all theologians, preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: You show your steadfast love without regard to borders, barriers, or human-made divisions. Infuse your justice in every nation of the world that all experience the peace that only you can give. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* and for all health care workers who care for them. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: You have put gladness in our hearts. Inspire musicians and dancers to rejoice with songs of victory. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who foster our assembly's song. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise, free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**I will enter them and give thanks<sup>1</sup> to the LORD.**  
<sup>20</sup>“This is the gate<sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
here the righ-<sup>1</sup>teous may enter.”  
<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have<sup>1</sup> answered me  
and you have become<sup>1</sup> my salvation.**  
<sup>22</sup>The stone that the build-<sup>1</sup>ers rejected  
has become the chief<sup>1</sup> cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has<sup>1</sup> this been done;  
it is marvelous<sup>1</sup> in our eyes.**  
<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the<sup>1</sup> LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be<sup>1</sup> glad in it.

## SECOND READING: Colossians 3: 1-4

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation. Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

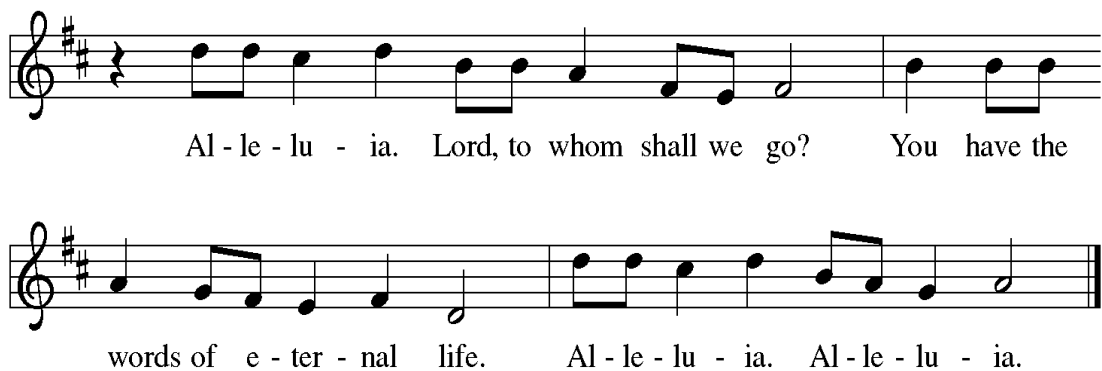
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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!*

<sup>1</sup>After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

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 *Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands ELW #370*

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

### 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** *Acclamation for Easter by Gordon Young*

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

### OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*