

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 7, 2023—May 14, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter 5/7/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship with
Children's Sunday School
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 5/8/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM 100th Anniversary
Committee Meeting
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 5/9/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA
1:30PM-4:00PM Pastor Continuing Ed
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 5/10/23

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

THURSDAY 5/11/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
1:30PM-4:00PM Pastor
Continuing Ed
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Al-Anon
7:00PM Antique Club

FRIDAY 5/12/23

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

SATURDAY 5/13/23

No events

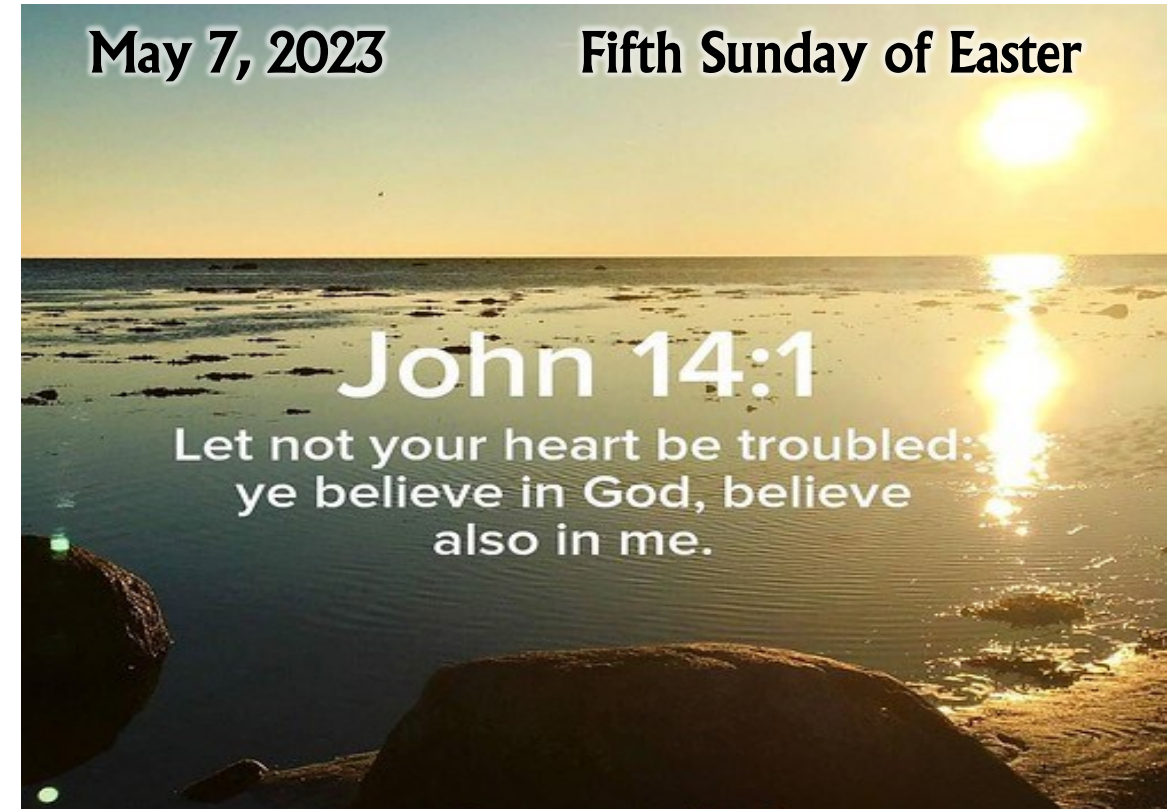
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Happy Mother's Day! 5/14/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
with Children's Sunday School
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter



John 14:1

Let not your heart be troubled:
ye believe in God, believe
also in me.

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.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

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Foundation

by: Jack C. Goode

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.**

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.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Debbie K., Renee P., Carol F., & Carole T.

Our family and friends: Donna, Freddy (Pastor), Eileen (Ruth T.), Stephanie B. (Roberta B.), Marilyn, Margie (Ruth B.), Max, Rinata, The Martin Family (Clare B.), Bob, Kim (Jim F.), Annmarie (June J.), Shirley (Debbie K.), Bob & Lou (Dale K.), Lindsey, Jim, Vicki, Elliot (Meg L.), Tim & Leah (Diana M.), Bernadette, Lou, Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, Donny, Carol, Elsie, Michael (Renee P.), Catherine, Sal, Ana, Mark (Corinne R.), Karen (Sue R.), Bob, Donna (Brenda T.), Bill, Sally, Harry (Jill W.), Eleanor (Roberta B.), Rob, Dorrie (Marlene D.), Carrie (Ray H.), Family and friends of Robert, Family and friends of Carl Platt

Those serving our country: Mike Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN

Our members at home: Bonnie Condliiff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Lois Reardon

Villa Raffaella: Barbara Johnson **Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore
The Shores at Wesley Manor: Eleanore Guire

Please notify Pastor Althea or the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list, so we can keep it as updated as possible.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Will vary until May 29, 2023, due to our Administrative Assistant being on vacation. Pastor Althea and volunteers will be checking the office phone regularly for messages. Please call Pastor Althea directly for any urgent matters and pastoral concerns.

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON & WED 10:00AM-2:00PM

TUES & THURS varies due to pastor's class

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

If planning to attend, please RSVP to Bettie Cross (609) 646-4495

Sunday, May 21, 2023 Pentecost Party & Worship

*with Special Prayers and Music
from around the world at 10:15am*

Join us as we celebrate the
Holy Spirit

coming to the disciples and the birthday of the church.

WEAR RED, ORANGE, or YELLOW

AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A HOLY GHOST PARTY! *(look up the song)*

The party will continue with food and **Fellowship Hour**
immediately following 10:15am worship.



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.**

OPENING HYMN *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!* ELW #380
VERSES 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.**

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 147-148*

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

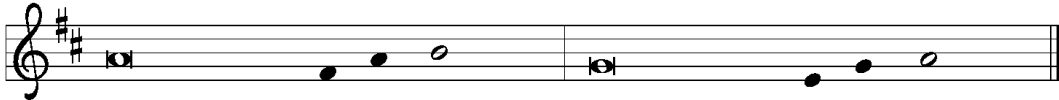
FIRST READING: Acts 7: 55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

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

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16



¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
 deliver me | in your righteousness.
²**Incline your | ear to me;**
make haste to de- | liver me.
³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and
 my stronghold;
 for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.
⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**
for you are my tow- | er of strength.
⁵Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
 for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.
¹⁵**My times are | in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who | persecute me.
¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
 save me in your | steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God’s saving work and the foundation of

CAPE SHORE CHORALE

presents

Spirituals & Folk Songs

June 4th, 2023 @ 3:00 P M

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 30th & Bay Ave., Ocean City, N. J.




Paul Spencer Adkins
guest tenor



Scott J. Breiner, director
free will offering & lite refreshments



Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/
 Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cape May County Board
 of County Commissioners through the Cape May County Division of Culture & Heritage.





Monday, May 8, 2023 at 12:00 PM

First Meeting of the

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE!

Lunch will be provided here at Grace.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 11, 2023

There will be no 8:00 AM worship service that Sunday. All are welcome and encouraged to attend our 10:15 AM worship service which will be an abbreviated service and we will be celebrating the baptism of Kinsley Anne Bori. **Immediately following the 10:15 worship service, we will have a brief congregational meeting** to finalize plans and vote on our church renovations.

our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW hymnal page 151

The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare

a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children are dismissed for Sunday School and they will return for communion.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Are The Way

ELW #758

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,**

We thank all those serving in worship today:

Reader: Edna Cordery

The flowers sponsor today is: Roberta Blumenthal, in loving memory of her husband, Larry, on his birthday!



The wine and bulletins sponsors today are: Clare Brick and Marleigh McShane.

Welcome

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 you.

May Worship Assistants:

5/14 Kevin Thomas

5/21 Meg LaSpina

5/28 Edna Cordery

June Worship Assistants:

6/4 Mary Ann Gring

6/11 Corinne Rhodes

6/18 Meg Markkanen

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *The Church’s One Foundation* ELW #654
VERSES 1,3,5 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 4 MEN

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

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune* *by Henry Purcell*

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
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!*

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**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 *Greater Love Hath No Man* by: John Ireland
Soprano: Ruth Bowden

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

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: God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. Bless all deacons and missionaries and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty

waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW hymnal page 152

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW hymnal page 153

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. All praise and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **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 154

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.**