

## HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 21, 2023—May 14, 2023

### **PENTECOST CELEBRATION 5/21/23**

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

#### MONDAY 5/22/23

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

#### TUESDAY 5/23/23

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

#### WEDNESDAY 5/24/23

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

#### THURSDAY 5/25/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
1:30PM-4:00PM Pastor Continuing Ed  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

7:00PM Al-Anon

#### FRIDAY 5/26/23

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

#### SATURDAY 5/27/23

*No events*

#### 7th Sunday of Easter 5/28/23

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

### 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

May 21, 2023

PENTECOST CELEBRATION



## 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.*



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## GATHERING

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**Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!**

### Introduction

*Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.*



### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Concertino*  
*Pamela Whitman: Flute*

by: C. Chaminade

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we celebrate the beginning of the church.

**We are called as disciples of Christ.**

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

**We thank you, Almighty God, for sending your Spirit to be among us.**

We call on the Spirit to be with us as we worship.

**Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, we come to you open and willing to be in



### May Worship Assistants:

5/28 Edna Cordery

### June Worship Assistants:

6/4 Mary AnnGring

6/11 Corinne Rhodes

6/18 Meg Markannen

6/25 Shirley Blankenship

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

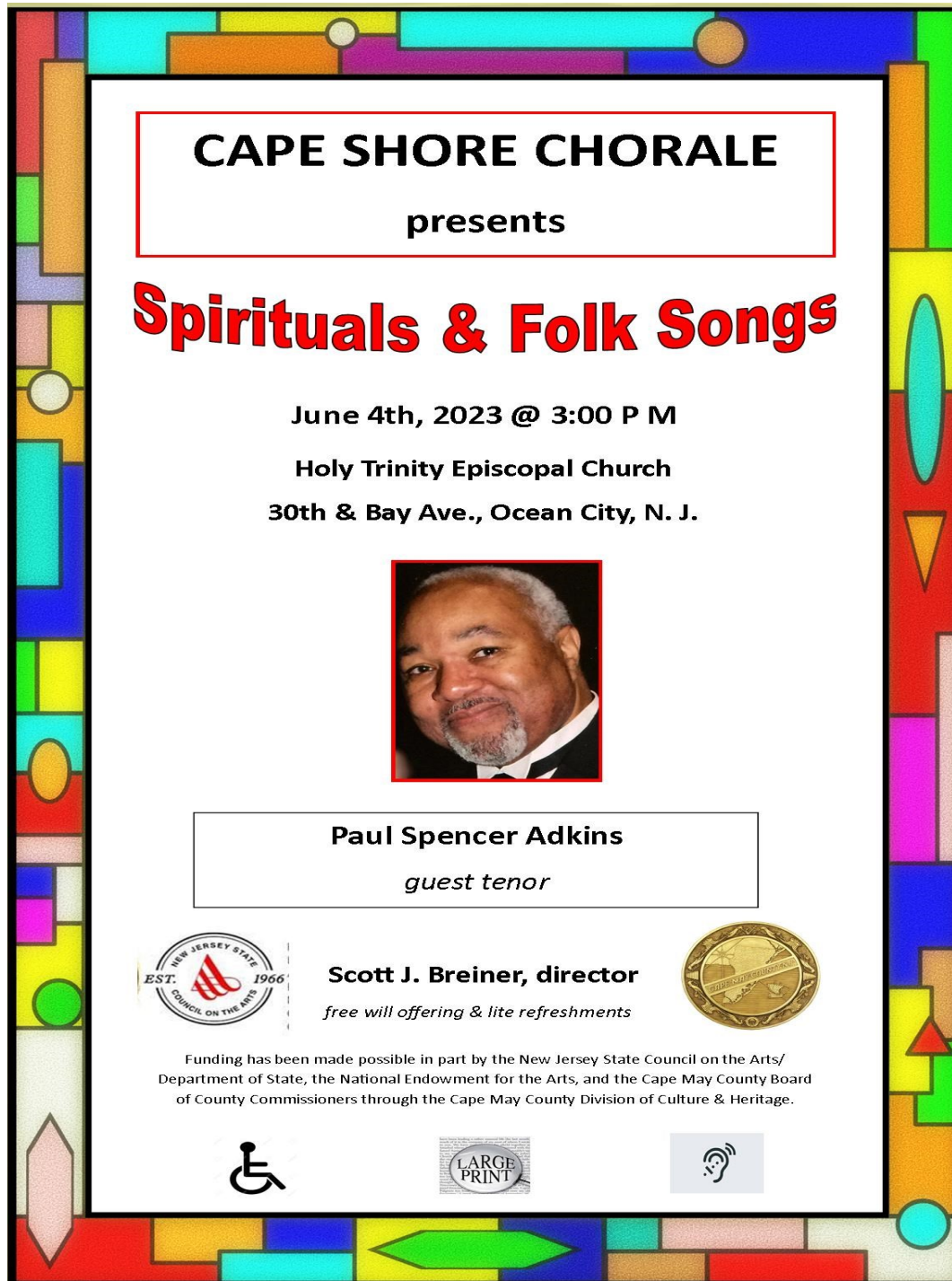
Will vary until May 29, 2023, due to our Administrative Assistant being on vacation. Pastor Althea and volunteers will be checking the office phone regularly for messages. Please call Pastor Althea directly for any urgent matters and pastoral concerns.

### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

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

TUES & THURS varies due to pastor's class






**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.



relationship with you again. You know our hearts and our innermost secrets. We call on you now to make us whole, refresh us, and bless us so that we may do your holy work in the world by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, and through our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. **God of Grace, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We humbly repent and we want to be close to you again. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Restore our relationship with you. Uphold us and strengthen us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you once again through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved through faith. In the name of + Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven. May God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you may know Jesus' great mercy and love for you. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN** *Come, All You People* ELW #819

### 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 3*

**NOW THE FEAST** *white booklet page 4-5*

### 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*

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## WORD

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### FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

<sup>3b</sup>No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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



## 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 financing for our church renovations.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

**CHAT AND CHEW**  
**Weekly Bible Study**



**Thursdays from 12PM-1PM**  
**beginning June 22**

Bring your lunch and enjoy an hour of informal scripture study and discussion led by Pastor Althea.

**COMMUNITY SUMMER**  
**SPLASH DAY!**



**Saturday, July 22: 11AM-2PM**

Families from our church and community are invited to participate in outdoor water games and activities and enjoy food and ice cream here at Grace!



## SENDING HYMN

*We Are Marching in the Light*

ELW #866

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

## POSTLUDE

*Tabla Solo*

**DISMISSAL** Go and serve Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit!  
**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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**We thank all those serving in worship today:**  
**Reader:** Meg LaSpina

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**The flowers sponsor today is:** Kathy Nigsch.  
Happy heavenly birthday, Dad, Walter Wopatek!

**Extra flowers today** are sponsored by WELCA.

**Fellowship refreshments today** are sponsored by  
the Financial Support Team.



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AND  
REFRESHMENTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP!**

*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.

## PSALM 104:24-34, 35b



<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your | works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to  
number,**

**living things both | small and great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships | to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.

<sup>27</sup>**All of them | look to you  
to give them their food | in due season.**

<sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they | gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.

<sup>29</sup>**When you hide your face, | they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their  
dust.**

<sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;  
and so you renew the face | of the earth.

<sup>31</sup>**May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;  
O LORD, rejoice in | all your works.**

<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth | and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;  
I will praise my God while I | have my being.**

<sup>34</sup>May these words of | mine please God.  
I will rejoice | in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup>**Bless the LORD, | O my soul.  
Hal- | lelujah!**

## SECOND READING: Acts 2: 1-21

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day  
after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the  
disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem  
for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to*

*the power of Christ's resurrection.*

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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*      *white booklet page 14*

## 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.**

**THANKS BE TO YOU**

*white booklet page 15*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SENDING

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*Please stand as you are able.*

## SENDING BLESSING

May you feel the power of the Holy Spirit as we go forth from this place. Know that the Spirit's presence will always be with us as we continue serving the church. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we serve our neighbor and all in need. **Amen.**

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HOLY COMMUNION

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## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*white booklet page 11*

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.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

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

*white booklet page 11-12*

In 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.

O God of resurrection and new life: **Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*white booklet page 8*

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

## GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* ELW #579  
VERSES 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 4 WOMEN

## THE 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

*Take a brief moment to share that peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.*

## OFFERING

### JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

*Our monthly special noisy offering for May is The Atlantic City Rescue Mission in Atlantic City, NJ.*

## OFFERTORY

*The Picture Song* by: Pamela Whitman  
Samir Chatterjee: Tabla player

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** As The Grains Of Wheat *white booklet pg.10*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. **You are our Creator and bless us with all that we have. We are thankful for many things in our lives. 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. Bless our time, our talents, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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: Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word. As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news to all those who long for you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Restoring God, wind and flame bring life and destruction throughout the world. We pray for those who work with wind energy, for migratory birds, for protection for lands facing destructive fire, for forestry managers and firefighters. Renew the face of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Ever-present God, your spirit embraces all. Send your spirit of understanding to immigrants, refugees, and any experiencing language barriers. Bless the work of translators, ESL teachers, ambassadors, and international peace organizations. Safely guide those fleeing war and danger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Merciful God, you anoint us with your spirit. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who seek your comfort *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Generous God, you impart a variety of gifts. Set aflame the desire to learn from one another, especially those who differ from us. Make your presence known through missionaries, peace workers, and through the outreach ministries of our synod and community. 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.**