

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 28, 2023—June 4, 2023

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER 5/28/23

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

MONDAY 5/29/23

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

TUESDAY 5/30/23

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

WEDNESDAY 5/31/23

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

THURSDAY 6/1/23

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

FRIDAY 6/2/23

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

SATURDAY 6/3/23

No events

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY 6/4/23

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

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 28, 2023

7th Sunday of Easter



“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

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

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

A Tribute to the Armed Services

arr. by: Lloyd Larson

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Gracious God, we open our hearts to you, you know each of us inside and out, we cannot hide anything from you. Create in us hearts of love and humble us to serve you by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Renew our relationship with you and restore our joy as we worship you and magnify your holy name. **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



June Worship Assistants:

6/4 Mary Ann Gring

6/11 Corinne Rhodes

6/18 Meg Markannen

6/25 Shirley Blankenship

July Worship Assistants:

7/2 Ruth Bowden

7/9 June Jordan

7/16 Kevin Thomas

7/23 Mary Ann Gring

7/30 Meg LaSpina

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

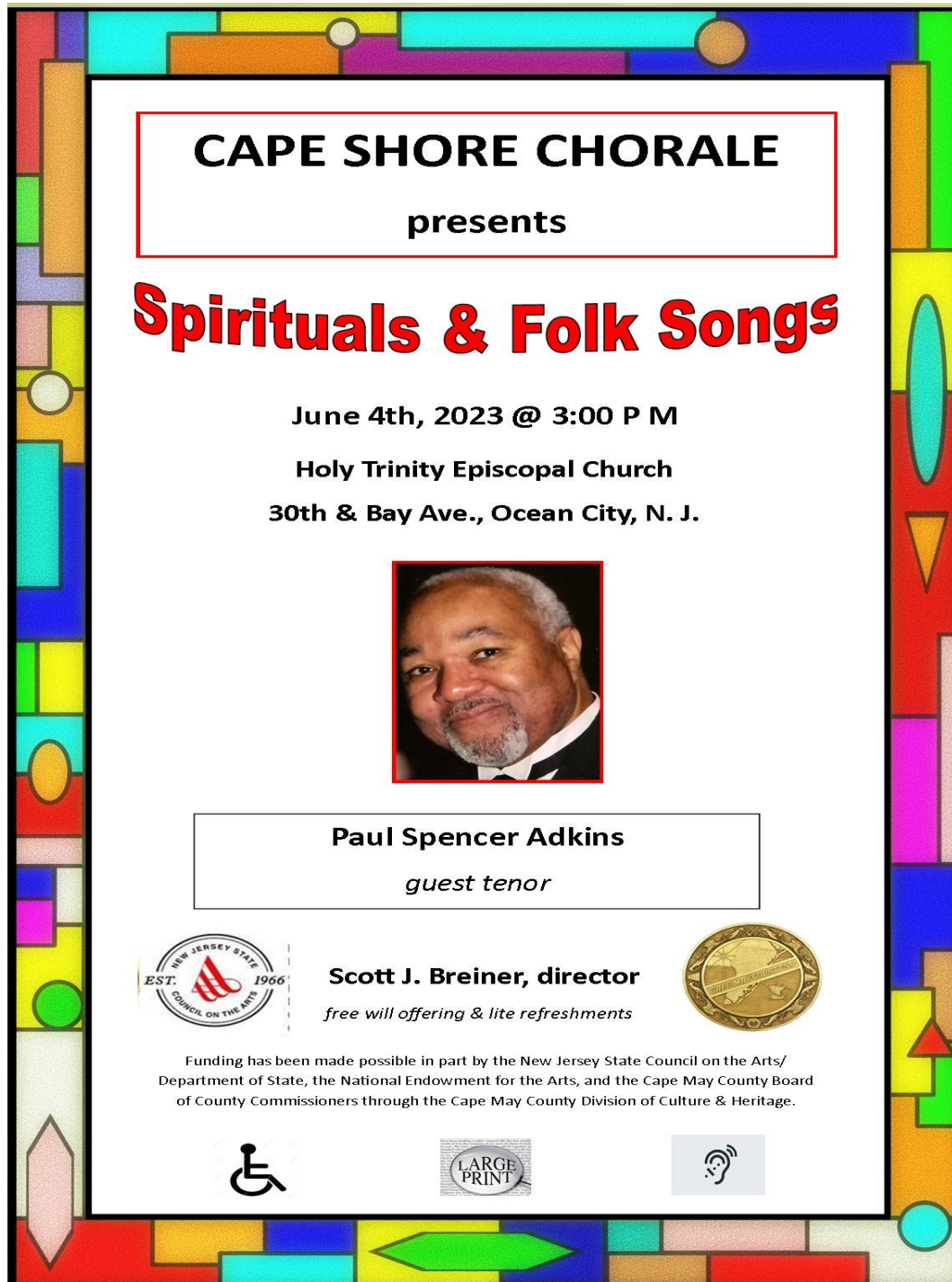
MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM

FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

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


THURS varies




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.



you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you may know Jesus' great mercy and love for you. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Rise, O Sun of Righteousness* ELW #657
VERSES 1,3,5 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 4 WOMEN

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

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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: Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

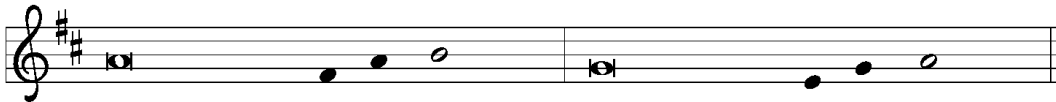
⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching,

he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35



¹Let God arise, and let God’s ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
pres- | ence of God.**

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who | rides
the clouds;**

I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!

⁵In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into
freedom;**

but the rebels shall live in | desert places.

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!

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Reader: Edna Cordery

The flowers sponsor today is: Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of her grandson on his 16th birthday!



The candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor is: Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of her daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Doug Siteman on their birthdays!

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.

⁷O God, when you went forth be-¹ fore your people,
 when you marched¹ through the wilderness,
⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the¹ God of Sinai,**
at the presence of God, the¹ God of Israel.
⁹You sent a bountiful¹ rain, O God;
 you restored your inheritance¹ when it languished.
¹⁰**Your people found their¹ home in it;**
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision¹ for the poor.
³²Sing to God, O kingdoms¹ of the earth;
 sing praises¹ to the Lord.
³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the¹ ancient heavens;**
you send forth your voice, your¹ mighty voice.
³⁴Ascribe pow-¹ er to God,
 whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is¹ in the skies.
³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O¹ God of Israel,**
giving strength and power to your people!¹ Blessed be God!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to

his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

white booklet page 8

The Holy Gospel according to John the 17th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

SENDING BLESSING

Beloved children of God, as we are sent from this place, know that God loves you. Christ’s presence is with you wherever you go. Finally, know that the Spirit is with you whenever you call on the Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Crown Him With Many Crowns* ELW #855
VERSES 1,3,5 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 4 WOMEN

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

POSTLUDE *Diademata* *by Lani Smith*

DISMISSAL Go and serve others with the love of Christ!
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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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.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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* *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

SENDING

Please stand as you are able.

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 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.**

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

OFFERTORY *I Know My Faith Is Founded* arr. by: Mark Schweizer

Please stand as you are able.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **We praise you, God, Creator of the universe. We thank you for all of the blessings in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Take these gifts and use them for your holy work. Grant us opportunities to serve those in need. Send your Spirit to watch over us and guide us in all that we do 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: God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff, council, and other leaders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Life-giving God, we give thanks for those who have died and now have new life in you. As we observe Memorial Day, we remember those who died in military service. Comfort all who mourn, and grant your world peace where there is war and conflict. 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

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.

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

white booklet page 11-12

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: