

May 25, 2025

6th Sunday of Easter



## 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)

Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, 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 us as we worship our Lord together these 50 days of Easter season!**

## INTRODUCTION

*Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.*

## WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

## PRELUDE

*Song of Peace*

by Jean Langlais

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN***The Peace of the Lord***ELW #646****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***Now the Feast and Celebration**white booklet #3***HYMN OF PRAISE***Now the Feast**white booklet #4-5***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

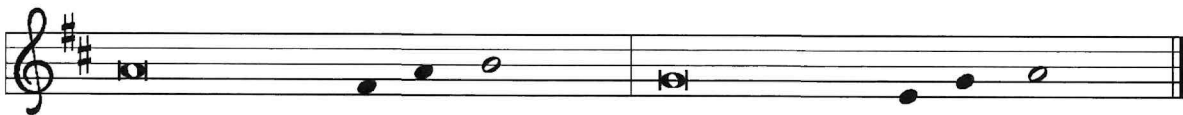
**PEACE** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR**

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

*Please be seated.***CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*Following the children's sermon, children are dismissed to attend Sunday School and will return for communion.*

**PSALM 67**

<sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to <sup>1</sup> us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face <sup>1</sup> shine upon us.  
<sup>2</sup> Let your way be known <sup>1</sup> upon earth,  
your saving health a- <sup>1</sup> mong all nations.



<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise<sup>1</sup> you, O God;  
let all the<sup>1</sup> peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> **Let the nations be glad and<sup>1</sup> sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na-<sup>1</sup> tions on  
earth.**

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples<sup>1</sup> praise you, O God;  
let all the<sup>1</sup> peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> **The earth has brought<sup>1</sup> forth its increase;  
God, our own<sup>1</sup> God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup> May God<sup>1</sup> give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth<sup>1</sup> stand in awe.

### **READING: Acts 16:9-15**

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

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

### GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

*As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

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

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **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, 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**

*The Peace of God*

by John Rutter

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *As the Grains of Wheat* white booklet #10

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**



*Please be seated.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Hear us, O God," please respond with "Your mercy is great."*

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*white booklet #11*

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### HOLY

*white booklet #11-12*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*white booklet #12*

### THROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHRIST, IN CHRIST

*white booklet #13*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

**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 to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

### COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

*white booklet #14*

### COMMUNION HYMNS

*It Is Well With My Soul*

**ELW #785**

*Peace to Soothe Our Bitter Woes*

**ELW #381**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

## **THANKS BE TO YOU**

*white booklet #15*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **SENDING**

## **BLESSING**

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

**ELW #805**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

*O Day Full of Grace*

by Wayne L. Wold

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



*We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:  
Worship Assistant: Meg LaSpina**

**The flowers sponsors this week are:** Roberta Blumenthal, in honor of her grandson Andrew Siteman, on his 18th birthday!

&

Ruth Dildilian Traa, in honor of her and her twin sister Rachel, on their 81st birthday!

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

**The bulletins sponsor this week is:** Roberta Bloomenthal, in memory of all who died serving our country.

### **Home Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5**

*John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.*

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.





# CAPE SHORE CHORALE

presents

## "AMERICANA"

*Featuring*  
**American Composers**

Sunday, June 8, 2025 @ 3 PM  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
30th & Bay Avenue, Ocean City,

Scott J. Breiner, director



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 Division of Culture & Heritage.



# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## May 25, 2025—June 1, 2025

### 6th Sunday of Easter 5/25/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship with  
Sunday School

### MONDAY 5/26/25

***Office & Food Pantry closed in  
observance of Memorial Day***

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 5/27/25

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

### WEDNESDAY 5/28/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
6:00PM AA Book Study  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 5/29/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 AA 12-Step  
7:00PM Al-Anon  
7:00PM Sisters of Hope  
Narcotics Anonymous

### FRIDAY 5/30/25

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

### SATURDAY 5/31/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### 7th Sunday of Easter 6/1/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship with  
Sunday School

**Civil Air Patrol Guests**

**Coffee Hour sponsored by Trozzo  
Family**

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**This week:**

**Tues-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM**

### **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