

The Season of Lent



First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Burlington, NJ 08016

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HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

www.holytrinityelc.org

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License # A-713124 for music where applicable.

February 22, 2026

10:00AM

First Sunday in Lent

Introduction

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE *Here I Am to Worship* *See insert*

* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

THE WORD

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of †Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

THE GATHERING SONG:

See Insert

Run To The Cross

* **THE GREETING**

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

* **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹ heat of summer. R**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time
of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not
reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Mediation Song: *Lord I Need You* *See Insert*

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Sung page #151

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOOD NEWS 101

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

Many and One

See Insert

* **THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

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**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.**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Hear us, O God
Your mercy is great

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING SPECIAL MUSIC

*** CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

*** THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD:**

Gracious God, we have heard your Word of Life today. While our sin is great, your determination to save has proven greater. Thank you for Jesus who leads us out of the wilderness and into the com-

munity declaring, "The kingdom of God has come near." Embolden us with the gift of your Holy Spirit that we may share your love and salvation with all creation, through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.

Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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**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.**

SENDING

*** BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always
Amen.

*** THE SENDING SONG:**

See Insert

Graves Into Gardens

*** THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: February 22, 2026

Acolyte: Allyson Schmalz

Lector: Bonnie Mazza

Usher: Steve Anderson

Musicians: Voices That Reign

Sound System: Amber Johnson

Serving Next Week: March 1, 2026

Communion Assistant: Amber Johnson

Acolyte: Scarlett Johnson

Lector: Lynn Haab

Ushers: Lynn Haab & Bonnie Mazza

Musician: Ryan Peiffer

Sound System: Laura Poethke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE CALL the church office (609-387-1202) whenever a family member, neighbor, or friend who is a member of Holy Trinity is hospitalized or moves from one hospital to another. Due to stricter privacy laws, hospitals do *not* notify the church when a member is admitted to the hospital and keep us informed of hospitalizations so Pastor Haab can visit and keep people in our prayers.

SUNDAY MORNING: 9am Sunday School & Worship 10AM every Sunday.

MORE INFORMATION: on these and other upcoming worship times and events can be found on the church Facebook page [HolyTrinityBT](#) and the church website: www.holytrinityelc.org

OFFERING ENVELOPES: As of January, 2026, the church will not be providing pre-printed, numbered envelopes. If you would like a set of giving envelopes at home please call the church office at 609-387-1202. Giving envelopes will be in the pews and in the Narthex.



Junior and Senior high youth group meets tonight!!

Junior Youth 4-7th grade 6:00-7:15pm

Senior High 8-12th grade 7:00-8:15pm



Saturday, March 21st

4pm-7pm

Sunday school children and their families are invited to a special event. Come join us for pizza, games, crafts and an Easter egg hunt as we say goodbye to Winter and hello to Spring.

We hope to see all of our Sunday school families.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Today: 9:00am Sunday School/
9:15am: Cedar Run Family Event
10:00AM Worship
6:00-8:15 Youth Group

Monday: 7-9pm: Burlington Entertainers

Wednesday 5:00—7:00PM Sisters of Sobriety

Friday: 7:00—10:00PM AA

Next Sunday: 9am Sunday School
10am: Worship w/ Holy Communion

EASTER LILY DEDICATION: If you are interested in purchasing an Easter lily in honor of a loved one, we have a sign up folder in the Entrance Lobby. We are asking that you pay for the lilies at the time you sign up. The cost is \$25 per lily, please see Bonnie or Amber after worship.



We will be having a soup supper before worship on Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ 6pm. If you would like to sign up to bring a soup, bread or dessert please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. All are welcome to attend!

Lent and Easter Schedule

March 29: 10:00am Palm Sunday Worship

April 2: 6:00pm Soup Supper

April 2: 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship

April 3: 7:00pm Good Friday Worship

April 5: 10:00am Easter Worship

