



The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1308 Mt Holly Rd

Burlington, NJ 08016

(609) 387-1202

HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

www.holytrinityelc.org

Rev. Russell Haab – Pastorhaab@holytrinityelc.org

Bonnie Mazza, Administrator — Secretary@holytrinityelc.org

Michelle Foster, Church Musician — michfoster16@gmail.com

License # A-713124 for music where applicable.

September 7, 2025

10:00am

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✚ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

** Please stand as you are able*

THE GATHERING SONG:

#335

Jesus, Keep Me Near 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

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you,

both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

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

C: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*** P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 14th chapter

*** C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord!
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOOD NEWS 101

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

#802

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

*** THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

page 217

**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**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of grace

Receive our prayer.

*** PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

*** THE OFFERTORY:** Let the Vineyards be Fruitful **# 184**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

THE MEAL

*** THE OFFERING PRAYER**

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung) page 152**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*** THE PREFACE**

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; who on this day
overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

*** THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sung) page 153**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*** THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

page 154

**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.**

*** THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of
mercy.

THE LAMB OF GOD (sung)

page 154

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

*** THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

THE SENDING

* THE BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✝ bless you now and forever
Amen.

* THE SENDING SONG:

Lift High The Cross

#660

* THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Serving Today: September 7, 2025

Communion Assistant: Ferol Howell

Acolyte: Allyson Schmalz

Lector: Lynn Haab

Usher: Steve Anderson & Bonnie Mazza

Musician: Ryan Peiffer

Sound System: Amber Johnson

Serving Next Week: September 14, 2025

Acolyte: Scarlett Johnson

Lector: Judy Bariexca

Ushers: Steve Anderson

Musician: Ryan Peiffer

Sound System: Amber Johnson

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: Worship 10AM every Sunday. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend our Worship at 10 AM every Sunday. Our blended worship will be returning in September on the 4th Sunday of each month with our contemporary band Voices That Reign leading us in song.

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

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME: Have you ever thought about joining one of our worship teams. We are always looking for new people to help usher, read, help with communion or acolyte. Please see Bonnie Mazza if you are interested.

FOOD PANTRY: Our food pantry is open the third Sunday immediately following worship. Please continue to bring in your donations to help those in need.

BIRTHDAY FELLOWSHIP and LOUD OFFERING take place on the first Sunday of each month. We recognize those who celebrate their birthday that month and also pass *Philip the Bucket* to collect spare change to help those in need.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT: We have completed our building repairs to meet the new state guidelines. So far to date we have received donations in the amount of \$2,525 toward our goal of \$5,000, to cover the expenses of these upgrades and repairs. Thank you everyone for your generosity. We will be working to raise the balance of this money throughout the Summer.

THE CHURCH DOES NOT RUN WITHOUT VOUNTEERS:
Stop by the bulletin board located in the main hallway and see how you can help.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Today: 10:00AM Worship/Holy Communion
Back Pack Blessing & Phillip the Bucket
Birthday Fellowship & Kona Ice
Tuesday: 7:00pm Burlington Book Club
Wednesday: 5:00—7:00PM Sisters of Sobriety
Friday: 7:00—10:00PM AA
Next Sunday: 9am Sunday School
10am: Worship

LOVE
ONE ANOTHER
as I have
loved YOU
John 15:12



**Upcoming Events for the
Remainder of 2025**

September 14: Sunday School Scavenger Hunt @ 9am

September 15: Church Council Meeting @ 7pm

September 27: S'mores At Sunset @ 7pm

October 5: Pet Blessings @ Noon on the front lawn

October 26: Reformation Sunday

November 2: All Saints Day

November 25: Thanksgiving Service @ 7pm

November 29: Greening of the Church @ 10am

December 14: Christmas Concert @ 6:30pm with Voices That
Reign and Youth Choir

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship @ 7pm & 10pm

