



## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

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  
1308 Mt. Holly Rd., Burlington, N.J. 08016  
Office: (609) 387-1202  
www.holytrinityelc.org  
Rev. Russell Haab – Pastorhaab@holytrinityelc.org  
Bonnie Mazza, Administrator — Secretary@holytrinityelc.org  
Michelle Foster, Music Director — michfoster16@gmail.com  
License # A-713124 for music where applicable.

April 28, 2024

10:00am

### THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### Introduction

*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John.*

*Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

\* Please stand as you are able.

#### THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THE PRELUDE

#### \* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian Official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and Resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

\* **THE GATHERING HYMN:** **See Insert**  
*Here I am to Worship*

\* **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**

P: Let us pray:

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31** (read responsively)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel  
before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**Mediation Song:**

*Lord I Need You*

**See Insert**

## THE SECOND LESSON : 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\* **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Sung) (Tune to hymn 380)

**C: Hallelujah! Jesus lives! Christ is risen from the grave!  
He who died this comfort gives: Lo, he lives, his own to save!  
Hallelujah! Praises be to our Lord eternally!**

\* P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 4th chapter.

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

## \* THE GOSPEL: 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOOD NEWS 101**

**THE SERMON**

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**See Insert**

*10,000*

\* **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.**

#### **\* THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Rejoicing that Jesus and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and those in need of good news.

God of Grace  
Hear our prayer

#### **\* THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always,  
C: And also with you.

#### **THE OFFERING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC : Amazed** See Insert

#### **\* THE OFFERTORY: 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**

Risen Christ, Living Word, you are the bread of life that nourishes and sustains us. By the power of your Word, dwell in our hearts and reveal to us again that we are the body of Christ: in our vulnerable flesh, through our baptism into your death and resurrection, and in service to the world you love. Be for us manna in the wilderness. Open us to recognize you in every meal and in all who hunger for bread, for human touch, and for healing and hope. We pray in your name, our healer and companion.  
**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.**

#### **THE SENDING**

#### **\* THE BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

\* **THE SENDING SONG:**

*Your Grace*

See Insert

\* **THE DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**THE POSTLUDE**

**Serving Today: April 28, 2024**

**Acolyte:** Scarlett Johnson

**Lector:** Judy Bariexca

**Ushers:** Peggy Bowers & Bonnie Mazza

**Musicians:** Voices That Reign

**Serving Next Week: May 5, 2024**

**Communion Assistant:** Lynn Haab

**Acolyte:** TBD

**Lectors:** Lynn Haab

**Ushers:** Peggy Bowers & Ferol Howell

**Musician:** Peter David

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!** Our Lord and Savior lives! May your presence here today bring you peace, comfort, and hope.

**EASTER**, being the greatest festival of the Church, is celebrated for a week of weeks – seven weeks! Throughout these “Great Fifty Days” we continue to celebrate the Resurrection in a special way, and we begin to see how it affects all parts of our lives. We are witnesses of the Resurrection, and our lives show forth the Lord’s victory.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is in session every Sunday at 9:00am. We look forward each week to sharing the good news with the children.

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:** Everyone is invited and welcome to attend our Worship at 10 AM every Sunday. Our blended worship takes place normally on the 4th Sunday each month with our contemporary band Voices That Reign leading us in song.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are now available on our website [holyltrinityelc.org](http://holyltrinityelc.org). If you are a graduating HS Senior, college or trade school student please make sure to get your applications in by Sunday May 19th.

**WORSHIP & PICNIC AT THE PARK :** Sunday, June 9th 9am—Noon, Green Acres Park, 851 Old York Rd, Burlington. Our annual worship and picnic will be here before we know it. Beginning at 9am our Sunday school classes will have a special lesson and outdoor activity. Worship will begin at 10am and our church picnic will follow immediately after. We ask that families bring chairs, drinks for their family, and a side dish to share. Hoagies and chips will be provided by the church.

**We hope to see everyone there!!**

**HOLY TRINITY REMIND:** Holy Trinity has a cell phone remind system in place to help notify our members about important church related updates. If you do not have your cell phone in our system and want to be added please see Bonnie Mazza after worship. All phone numbers remain private and will not be shared with any other members.

**HOLY TRINITY IS HITTING A MILESTONE THIS**

**YEAR!!!** On November 17, 2025 we celebrate 70 years as a church family. A special worship service is being planned. Our bishop will be joining us that day along with some of our favorite musicians and choir members. After worship the celebration will continue in our fellowship hall with a catered luncheon. We are working on a video of pictures, stories, and songs that have been a part of our 70 years. We need your help in contacting former members and staff to invite them back to join us.

**Please mark your calendars!! You will not want to miss this.**

**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.

**FOOD PANTRY:** Your donations to our food pantry have allowed us to help many in need. If you would like to be involved in the food pantry ministry, we will be meeting right after worship on May 19. We need volunteers! Please join us and see how you can help.

**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.

**TREASURER/FINANCE PERSON** After many years of service to our church, Hank Bariexca will be stepping down as financial secretary at the end of 2024. If you have any background in bookkeeping/finance and would be interested in finding out more about helping with this important ministry, please see Hank after worship for more details. Hank would like to work along side with our new volunteer throughout the rest of 2024 to help make the transition run smoothly.



Just as  
I have  
**loved** you,  
you also  
should **love**  
one another.

John 13.34