



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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

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License # A-713124 for music where applicable.

April 21, 2024

10:00am

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Introduction

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

* Please stand as you are able.

THE 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:** #362 v1-4
At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

* **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 HYMN OF PRAISE:** pg. 149

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray:

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 23 (read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

THE SECOND LESSON : 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we

will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (tune # 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 10th chapter.

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

* **THE GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

[Jesus said:]¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOOD NEWS 101

THE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

502

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

* 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 is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all 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

* **THE OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyards** #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**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

**Holy, holy, holy 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**

**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**

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

THE LAMB OF GOD (sung) pg. 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**

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
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: # 362 v 5-8 *At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

* THE DISMISSAL
Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

THE POSTLUDE

Serving Today: April 21, 2024

Communion Assistant: Laura Poethke
Acolyte: Allyson Schmalz
Lector: Danielle Ercolani
Ushers: Steve Anderson & Ferol Howell
Musician: Peter David

Serving Next Week: April 28, 2024

Acolyte: Scarlett Johnson
Lectors: Judy Bariexca
Ushers: Peggy Bowers & Bonnie Mazza
Musicians: Voices That Reign

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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are now available on our website holvtrinityvelc.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 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.

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.

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 Sunday, April 26. 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.

COMMITTEES NEED NEW MEMBERS we have numerous committees (Music & Worship, Christian Education, Property, Fundraising, Social Ministry, 70th Anniversary, Church Council, just to name a few) that could use some new fresh ideas. If you are interested in being a part of one please reach out to Bonnie Mazza for more information.

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

THE LORD IS MY
shepherd
I SHALL NOT
— want —

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

NUMBERS 6:24-26