



## The Second Sunday of Advent

December 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](http://www.holytrinityelc.org)

Rev. Russell Haab — [Pastorhaab@holytrinityelc.org](mailto:Pastorhaab@holytrinityelc.org)

Bonnie Mazza, Administrator — [Secretary@holytrinityelc.org](mailto:Secretary@holytrinityelc.org)

Michelle Foster, Music Director — [michfoster16@gmail.com](mailto:michfoster16@gmail.com)

License # A-713124 for music where applicable.

December 7, 2025

10:00am

## The Second Sunday of Advent

### Introduction

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

### THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THE PRELUDE

#### \* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**  
**Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

\* Please stand as you are able

## THE GATHERING SONG:

#239

*Hark The Glad Sound*

### \* 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

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH    See Insert

### THE WORD

#### First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**  
<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

#### Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup> and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup> and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 Matthew the 3rd chapter

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

**Gospel: : Matthew 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**P: The Gospel of the Lord!**

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

**GOOD NEWS 101**

**THE SERMON**

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**#249**

*On Jordan’s Bank*

\* **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**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God,  
trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole  
creation.

God of grace,

**Hear 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**

Nourishing God,  
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
that we may rejoice and be for the world  
signs of your kingdom come.  
**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**

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised

### **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**

God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

### **\* THE BLESSING**

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

### **\* THE SENDING SONG: #264** *Prepare The Royal Highway*

### **\* THE DISMISSAL**

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

### **THE POSTLUDE**

#### **Serving Today: December 7, 2025**

**Communion Assistant:** Amber Johnson  
**Acolyte:** Baylee Rodig  
**Lector:** Lynn Haab  
**Usher:** Amber Johnson & Ferol Howell  
**Musician:** Danny Allen  
**Sound System:** Bonnie Mazza

#### **Serving Next Week: December 14, 2025**

**Acolyte:** Allyson Schmalz  
**Lector:** Stan Blackburn  
**Ushers:** Bonnie Mazza  
**Musicians:** Michelle Foster  
**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:** Worship 10AM every Sunday. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend our Worship at 10 AM every Sunday. Our blended worship is back on the 4th Sunday of each month.

**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](http://www.holytrinityelc.org)

### **BIRTHDAY FELLOWSHIP and LOUD OFFERING.**

Today Phillip the Bucket will be making an appearance during worship. Your loose change allows the church to provide needed assistance to so many. Immediately following worship, please join in the Birthday fellowship in the social hall. Our own Lynn Haab treats us with her wonderful baked goods.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY:** Immediately following the children's Christmas service on December 21. Please see sign us sheet if you can help donate goodies for this wonderful day. Our Sunday school children are working hard to tell us the wonderful story of Christmas.

### **CHURCH DE-GREENING: January 10 at 1pm**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK FEBRUARY 1, 2026:** Immediately following Worship. Mark your calendars for this important meeting. It is crucial to have as many members attend the annual meeting. Please see sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

December 14 6:30 pm



Come out and enjoy a wonderful musical Christmas celebration featuring Voices That Reign. Donations at the door will be used to help with our World Hunger Outreach

We are so glad you worshipped with us today.

Our hope is that you have a blessed week and we will see you again next Sunday.

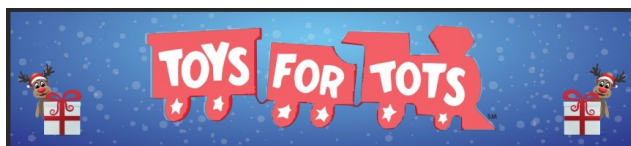
If you are visiting and have any questions about Holy Trinity, please ask Pastor Haab, one of our Greeters, Ushers or any of our wonderful members.

Go in Peace and serve the Lord.

Sunday, December 21 @10am



The Sunday School youth and teachers tell the story of Christmas and help remind us all how much we are blessed by the birth of our Savior .



Two of our members have been working with Toys for Tots for over many years. This year is expected that over 85,000 children will go without toys for Christmas. Toys for tots collect toys for children ages newborn –14 years old. Many forget the older children. Please see Ferol Howell to see how you can help.



**Christmas Eve, December 24th  
7 & 10pm**

**Lessons and Carols, Sunday,  
December 28  
10am**