



## Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

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)

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License # A-713124 for music where applicable.

March 8, 2026

10:00AM

### Third Sunday in Lent

#### Introduction

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

#### THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THE PRELUDE

#### \* 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:**

# 533

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

#### \* **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**

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

<sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 95**

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup> **"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.  
<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, ‘The heart of this  
people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**  
<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,  
‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

### **Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 John the 4th chapter.

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

### **Gospel: John 4:5-42**

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” <sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city

and were on their way to him. <sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'?" But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." <sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

## GOOD NEWS 101

### THE SERMON

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY:** #335  
*Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross*

**\* 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

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** page 219

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the lamb forever and ever. Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations. Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name? Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever. For you alone are the Holy One, and blessed is the one whose name is Word of God. All praise and thanks to you, holy God! Salvation belongs to our God and to the Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

### \* 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

community 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**

page 221

**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:**

#618

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

**\* THE DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

**Serving Today: March 8, 2026**

**Acolyte:** William Schmalz

**Lector:** Hank Bariexca

**Usher:** Amber Johnson

**Musician:** Danny Allen

**Sound System:** Amber Johnson

**Serving Next Week: March 15, 2026**

**Communion Assistant:** Ferol Howell

**Acolyte:** Baylee Rodig

**Lector:** Laura Poethke

**Ushers:** Nicole Rodig & Baylee Rodig

**Musician:** Michelle Foster

**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:** 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](https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBT) and the church website: [www.holytrinityelc.org](http://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.



**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!



**Saturday, March 21 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.



**TRENTON THUNDER FAITH AND FAMILY GAME: Saturday, July 25 @ 6pm**  
We have once again ordered 20 tickets for Holy Trinity to be a part of this special event. The tickets are \$8.00 each. If you would like to reserve tickets please see Bonnie after church. Tickets must be paid for when you reserve them.

**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 the board in the Narthex or Amber Johnson, head of Music and Worship if you are interested.

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP:** Stop by our bulletin board and see how you can help Holy Trinity with time, talent and donations. Every little bit helps to keep our beautiful church operating smoothly.

**THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY**

**Today:** 9:00am Sunday School  
10:00AM Worship  
**Monday:** 7-9pm: Burlington Entertainers  
**Tuesday:** 7-9pm Burlington Book Club  
**Wednesday** 5:00—7:00PM Sisters of Sobriety  
**Friday:** 7:00—10:00PM AA  
**Next Sunday:** 9am Sunday School & Scavenger Hunt  
10am: Worship W/Communion

**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

