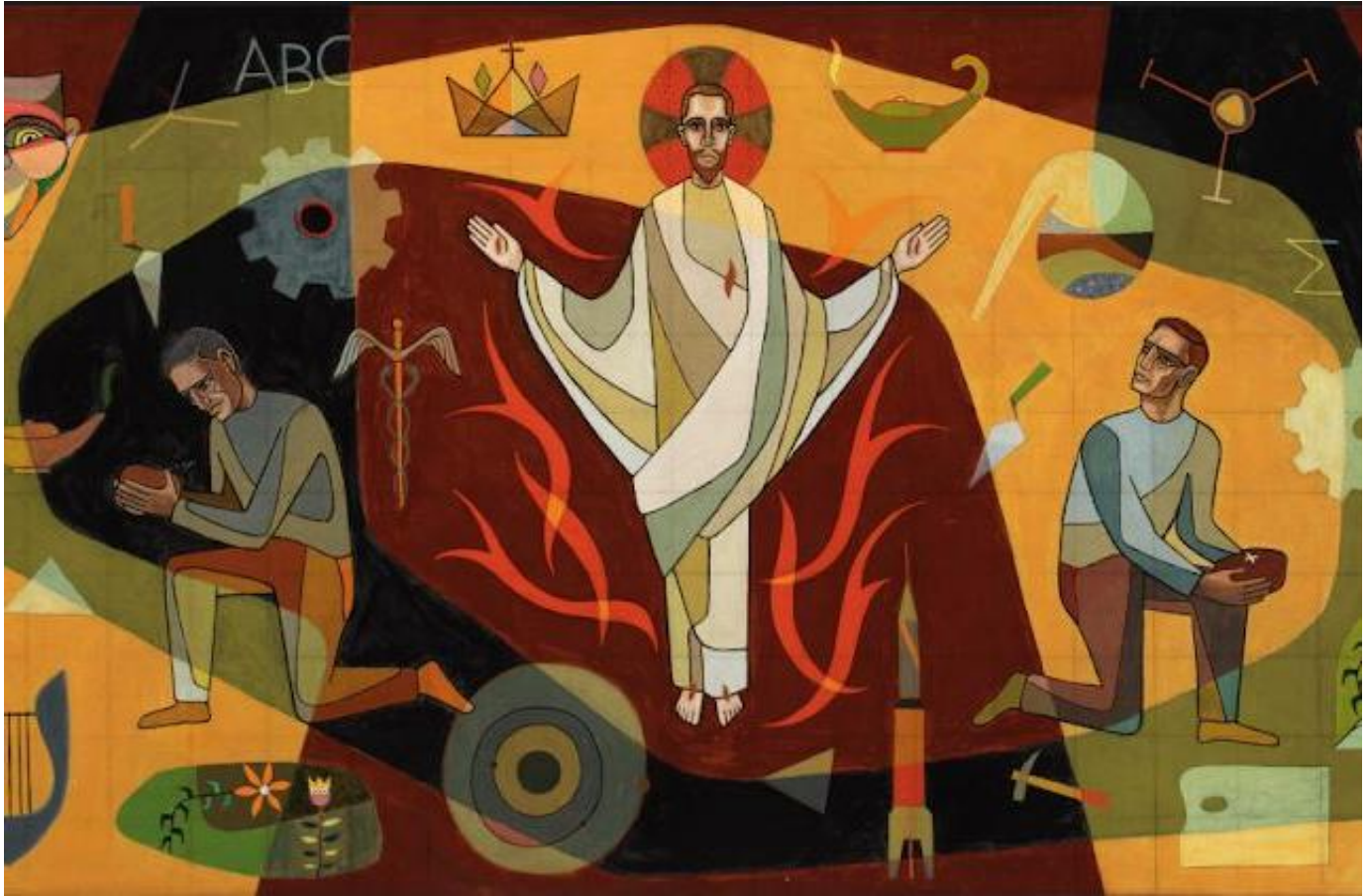


Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



"I am the Way, the Truth and Life" – Roman Verostko

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist ~ Rite II ~ May 3, 2026 at 10 AM



The Reverend Andrew David Kruger - Rector & Presider

Anthony J. Rafaniello - Director of Music & Organist

Casey Woodruff - Senior Warden & Kathleen M. Murray - Junior Warden

Handbell Prelude

“Wondrous Love” – arr. Susan E. Geschke

At the end of the prelude, the bells are rung and the People stand.

I. Gathering of God’s People

Gathering Hymn

Richmond

Hymnal 212

1 A - wake, a - rise, lift up your voice, let
2 Oh, with what glad - ness and sur - prise the
3 those hands of lib - eral love in - deed in
4 His en - e - mies had sealed the stone as
5 O Dead a - rise! O Friend - less stand by

1 Eas - ter mu - sic swell; re - jice in Christ, a -
2 saints their Sa - vior greet; nor will they trust their
3 in - fi - nite de - gree, those feet still free to
4 Pi - late gave them leave, lest dead and friend - less
5 ser - a - phim a - dored! O Sol - i - tude a -

1 gain re - jice and on his prais - es dwell.
2 ears and eyes but by his hands and feet,
3 move and bleed for mil - lions and for me.
4 and a - lone he should their skill de - ceive.
5 gain com - mand your host from heaven re - stored!

Gathering Sentences

Book of Common Prayer 299

Presider Alleluia. Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Presider There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God’s call to us;**

Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
 might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
 on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
 5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

BCP 225

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The People sit. Children PreK-3 through Grade 4, gather in the crossing for the blessing.

Blessing of the Sunday School Children and Teachers

Andrew Kruger

Presider May God bless those who teach and those who learn,
✠ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

II. Proclaiming and Receiving the Word of God

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In te, Domine, speravi

Plainsong Psalter

All sing the Antiphon and Psalm.



1 *In* yōu, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me néver be pút to shame; *
deliver mé in your ríghteousness.

2 Inclíne your éar to me; *
make háste to delíver me.



- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crág and my stróngthold; *
for the sake of your Name, léad me and gúide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have sécretly sét for me, *
for yóu are my tówer of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I comménd my spírit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LÓRD, O GÓD of truth.
- 15 My tímes are ín your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who pérsécúte me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upón your sérvant, *
and in your loving-kindness sáve me." [Ant.]

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Reader A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner. A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand and sing.

Chri - stos a - ne - sti ek ne - kron, tha - na - to
 7
 tha - na - ton pa - ti - sas ke tis
 en tis mni - ma - si, zo - in cha - ri sa - me - nos.
 Christ is ris - en from the dead, by death
 20
 tram - pling down up - on death and to
 those in the tombs he has grant - ed life.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

Presider ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus told his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?”

“The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

III. Responding to the Proclaimed Word

Homily

Andrew Kruger

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

BCP 292 alt.

The Presider moves to the font and the People stand.

Friends in Christ, Baptism is not the rite of a moment but the commitment of a lifetime. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with our Lord.

Therefore let us reaffirm our Baptismal Vows together with all those who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this month.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Blessing the Water

Common Worship alt.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord:

People **God is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

The Presider pours the water into the baptismal font.

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be glory and praise for ever! You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph. Accept our sacrifice of praise, we pray, and sanctify these waters of your new creation, that we, with all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit, may be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **Blessèd be God for ever.**

The Presider sprinkles the People with the aspergillum.

Baptismal Chant

“We Shall Draw Water” – Paul Inwood

We shall draw wa - ter joy - fully, sing - ing joy - fully, sing - ing joy - fully;

we shall draw wa - ter joy - fully from the well - springs of sal - va - tion.

1. Truly God is our salvation; we trust, we shall not fear.
For the Lord is our strength, the Lord is our song; he became our savior.
2. Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord; give praise to his holy name!
Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations; proclaim his greatness.
3. Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds.
Make known his works to all of the earth; people of Zion, sing for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Prayers of the People

CW alt.

The Presider says

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

The Intercessor continues

That our risen Savior will fill us with the joy of the glorious and life-giving resurrection.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

That God will grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

That those who lack food, work or shelter will be sustained and fulfilled.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

That, by Christ's power, war and famine will cease through all the world.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

That the light of Christ's presence will be revealed to the sick, the weak and the dying.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

That all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

That the fire of the Holy Spirit will ignite us to bear faithful witness to the resurrection.

Lord have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

The Presider prays

Compassionate God, you called us to establish Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey: endow us with the vision to balance charitable giving with advocating justice, so that both the source and symptoms of oppression will be overcome; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

Announcements

Andrew Kruger

IV. Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Offertory Sentence

1 Chronicles 29:11

The Presider says

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offering of bread and wine to the Holy Table.



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the people.
Another option is to give to Trinity online –
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

Offertory Anthem

“This Joyful Eastertide” – arr. William H. Harris

Text by George Ratcliffe Woodward

This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow.

My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number.

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.*

Death's flood hath lost his chill,
Since Jesus cross'd the river
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.

The ushers bring the collection plates to the ministers and the People stand.

Offertory Hymn

Salzburg

Hymnal 174

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

Presider







Source of all life, everything in heaven and on earth is yours:

People

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer for Pascha

Celebrating Sunday

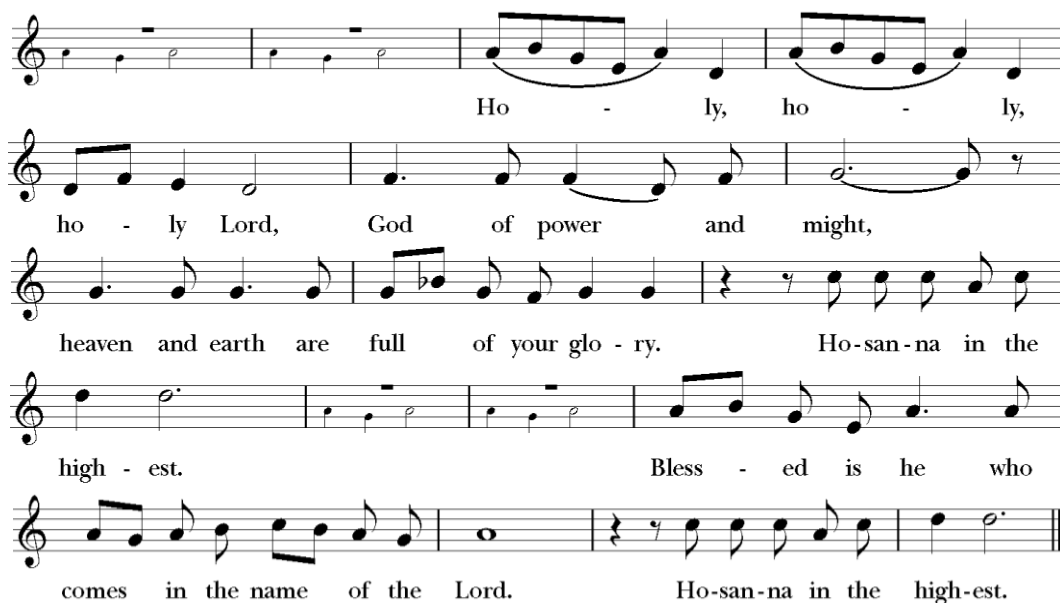
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>The Lord be with you.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>And al - so with you.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	
<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>	

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Hymnal S 128



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross we gain eternal life and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

The Risen Lord was recognized in the breaking of the bread, the fearful disciples received a blessing of peace, and the weary fishermen found a ready welcome on the lakeshore. To them all Christ renewed the pledge of his presence and the promise of new birth in the Spirit.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release when slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples, Jesus took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this to remember me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

People **Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and the Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

Great Amen

Mathias/Kruger



Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

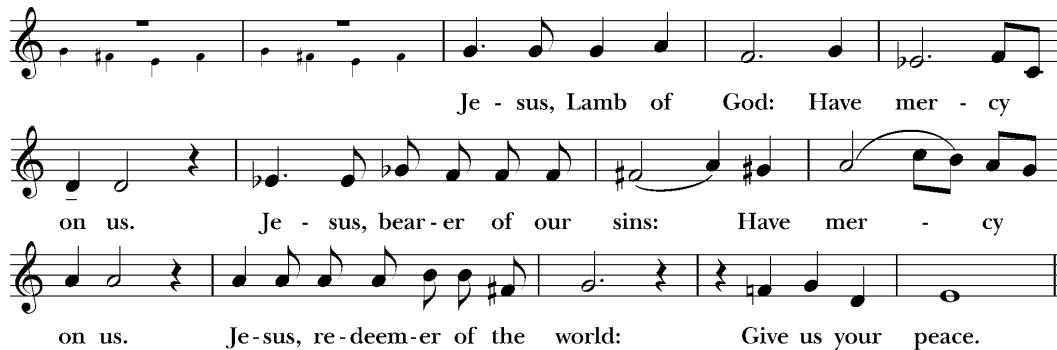
Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S 165



Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

Invitation

BCP 364

Presider The Gifts of God:
People **for the People of God.**

The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All who hunger for God, including children, are cordially invited to share the Gifts of God offered at this table. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here.

All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. You may choose to receive only the host. Gluten-free wafers are available by request to the priest.

First Communion Hymn

Wondrous Love

Hymnal 439

Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and
won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll
caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing
soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Second Communion Hymn

The Call

Hymnal 487

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can

strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

Taizé Chant

I am sure I shall see

Taizé Community

(Salmo / Psalm 27:13-14)

I am sure I shall see the good-ness of the Lord in the land of the
 Ten-go fe que ve - ré la di - cha del Se - ñor por sen - de - ros de

liv-ing. Yes, I shall see the good-ness of our God. Hold firm, trust in the Lord. I am
 vi - da. Sí, voy a ver la di - cha del Se - ñor. Ten fir - me el co-ra-zón. Ten-go

Last time

Última vez / Last time

Post Communion Prayer

CW

Presider Let us pray.

The People stand.

**Lord God our Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ
 you have assured us of eternal life
 and in baptism have made us one with him:
 deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life
 in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Presider blesses the people

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
 that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant,
 make you complete in every good work to do his will,
 working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
 and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
 and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Crucifer

Hymnal 473

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim
 till all the world a - dore his sa - cred Name.

Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Repeat Refrain

the hosts of God in con - quering ranks com - bine.
 bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

Dismissal

BCP 366

Presider

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude

“Voluntary on *Crucifer*” – Charles Callahan

For Friends, Visitors and Newcomers

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey. Thank you for joining us in worship. The bulletin is designed to make you feel at home and includes everything you need for the service (liturgy, hymns, rubrics, etc.). Please connect with us; introduce yourself to the ushers so they can make you feel more comfortable. Father Andy is in the narthex (entrance) at the end of the service; it is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level. All are invited to Fellowship Hour in Sherlock Hall immediately after the service. An email blast is sent every Thursday by 2 PM with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information on events, etc. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

Banns of Marriage

The Banns of Marriage are published between Axelle Bougouma and Adrian Untermeyer. You are required to give your consent to their marriage; if you cannot, you are to speak now or else for ever hereafter hold your peace. The wedding date is Saturday, May 16 at 11 AM in the Church. This is the second time of asking.

Baptismal Anniversaries

When we think about birthdays, we immediately recall the date we were born and took our first breath in this world. But if we take a moment to reflect, we will realize that we have another “birthday” of even greater significance: the day we became members of the body of Christ – our Baptismal birthday.

Through the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit anoints us and sets our inner compass, to walk in a path that is pleasing to God, to do all good works that God has planned for us, and to “seek God’s face” [Psalm 27:8]. This is the path that ultimately leads us into abundant life both in this earthly existence, and in the world to come. Whether baptized as a child or an adult, we prayerfully grow in our understanding and appreciation of our baptismal identity, as individuals and as a community.

Usually, on the first Sunday of every month, we acknowledge those who have a baptismal “birthday” during the month in question and share in their renewal of baptismal vows. This monthly recognition of our “birth from above” [John 3:3] allows us to develop a deeper appreciation for the essence of our baptism. Parishioners celebrating their Baptismal Anniversaries in May:

Lilianna Ilich	May 2	Christian Robinson	May 29	Susan Olszewski	May 4
Paola Cammarota	May 20	Erin Smith	May 23	Jane O’Hagan	May 19
Eric Cammarota	May 20	Wesley Ditzel IV	May 16	Matthew Rivera	May 24
Stacey Cooney	May 22	Matias Juarez	May 23	Eliza Rivera	May 24
Nelson Dittmar	May 5	Ellia Garcia	May 28	Sarah Roberts	May 21
Lillian Pettit	May 5	Sofia Juarez	May 28	Charlie Roberts	May 13
Betsy Stubbs	May 14	Luke Li	May 14	Susan Nelson	May 8
Marilyn Merkel	May	Silas Li	May 23	Alexandra Waldron	May 20
Elizabeth Morenko	May 10	Amy Taglia	May 17	Cameron Harty	May
Drew Ortiz	May 19	Anjuli Antus	May 19	Raymond C. Roberts	May 13
Charlotte Antus	May 19			Braden Aravena	May 15

What you need to know today...

Annual Spaghetti Dinner \$2,068 was collected; this was a huge success and the proceeds will go towards the parking lot project. Gratitude is expressed to all who supported this event.

Fellowship Hour Today, in Sherlock Hall, immediately after this service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided.

Children's Choir The choir rehearses at 11:30 AM in the church.

Outreach Committee Meeting Today at 11:30 AM in Witherington Hall.

Confirmation Class Today from 5 PM to 7 PM in Witherington Hall.

What you need to know this week...

The Daily Offices Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday to Thursday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM this week.

Parish Office Hours Office Manager Marion Nechuta is available Tuesday through Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. Please call before arriving; at other times she may still be contacted via parish email.

Handbells and Choir Rehearsals This Wednesday, May 6; rehearsal for Handbells is 7 to 7:50 PM and Adult Choir is 8-9 PM.

Just Gathering This Thursday, May 7 from 6 PM to 8 PM in Fellowship Hall at Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman Street in Cranford. Come together with Cranford friends and neighbors to find common ground and build a welcoming Community. For meal planning purposes please register at <https://bit.ly/JustGathering>.

Trinity Knitting Circle This Saturday, May 9, from 10 to 11 AM in Witherington Hall.

Scouting for Food This Saturday, May 9. Support our community by participating in the "Scouting for Food" drive-through food collection. Donations of non-expired, non-perishable items will benefit Cranford Family Care. Drop off items at Cranford Family Care, Livingston Avenue School, Orange Avenue School, or Brookside Place School. Volunteers are available in the parking lots to assist.

What you need to know in the future...

Trinity Women's Group Monday, May 11 from 7 PM to 8 PM online.

Ascension Day A Rite II said service will be offered on Thursday, May 14, at 12 PM at Trinity to observe the Feast of Ascension.

Sandwich Sunday Sunday, May 17; contact Marion Nechuta (marionnechuta@yahoo.com or 908-451-4498) for more information. There are several ways to participate in this ministry (links to sign up are in the email blast):

- Sign up to supply items needed for the bags and the sandwiches
- Friday, May 15 from 6 PM to 7 PM – assemble food bags in Sherlock Hall
- Sunday, May 17 – assemble sandwiches between services and after 10 AM service
- Sunday, May 17 after Fellowship Hour – transport the sandwiches and food packets to St John’s and help serve food

Fellowship Luncheon_Thursday, May 21, 12:30 to 2PM in Witherington Hall. The theme is Cinco de Mayo with fajitas and other treats. The speaker is the Union County Health Department.



Annual Trinity Sunday Barbeque Sunday, May 31 after the 10 AM Eucharist. Click on the QR code or see this week’s email blast for details.

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) Sunday

ECS Sunday invites us into a shared, faithful work: setting a table where all are fed. Across the Diocese of New Jersey, we come together in service, reconciliation, and justice – trusting that what we do together, in Christ, can transform lives. Through Episcopal Community Services (ECS) of New Jersey, our collective generosity supports ministries addressing food insecurity, housing needs, racial justice, and community outreach, turning compassion into tangible hope.

The Epistle for this Sunday (1 Peter 2:2–10) offers a powerful image for our life together. “Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation.” This holy longing is not only about personal faith – it is about a community shaped by God’s nourishing grace. When we have “tasted that the Lord is good,” our hunger changes. We begin to hunger not only for God, but for justice; not only for grace, but for a world where no neighbor goes without daily bread.

Peter reminds us that we are “living stones built into a spiritual house.” Alone, a single stone cannot shelter or sustain – but together, we become something strong enough to serve, protect, and nourish. ECS Sunday is a reminder that the Church is not simply a place we gather; it is a people sent out, built together for the sake of others. In a time when over a million of our neighbors in New Jersey face food insecurity, this calling could not be more urgent.

Through ECS, our diocese lives out this identity – pooling resources, funding grassroots ministries, and equipping parishes to respond to both immediate needs and systemic injustice. When you give, pray, and act, you are helping to set a wider table – one where dignity is restored, barriers are broken down, and all are welcomed and fed.

There are many ways to participate: include ECS in your prayers, engage in local service, empower our youth to learn and act, and help share the story of this vital ministry. We also invite you to support the special ECS Sunday collection, which fuels this life-changing work across our diocese. Each step, however small, becomes part of something larger. To give and learn more, please visit ecs-nj.org/2026-ecs-sunday.

“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people.” On ECS Sunday, we live into that truth – becoming a community shaped by mercy, built for justice, and committed to ensuring that there is a place, and a meal, for everyone at God’s table.

Lectionary & Liturgy

We begin today the fifth of the seven weeks of the Christian year set apart to celebrate the dying and rising of Jesus. The Gospel reading today is a discussion between Jesus and his disciples, particularly Thomas and Philip, about the results of his dying and rising. He is revealed to be the Way into eternal life, and in knowing Jesus we know and are known by the Father.

Today's reading from Acts describes the martyrdom of Stephen, the first Christian to suffer death for the name of Christ. This is itself a particularly strong witness to the resurrection of Jesus; as Stephen joins his Lord in dying he sees Jesus raised from the dead and leading him into God's eternal kingdom.

In the second reading today Peter applies to us the words of God to the people of Israel during their Exodus. By virtue of our baptism into Jesus' dying and rising, we are set apart as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people," with the vocation of making God's wonderful deeds known to all people.

In the Eucharistic celebration, we are revealed as the royal priesthood. In most religions, the priesthood is a small group of people who stand between God and the rest of the people. Christians, however, all stand before God on behalf of the entire human race; on behalf, indeed, of the whole creation. That priesthood is enacted most clearly as we stand before God in intercession and in thanksgiving in the Eucharistic liturgy.

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. © 2007 Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing, NYC

- † **Cover Art** – "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" by Roman Verostko (1929-2024); ceramic tile, Saint Vincent College Collection, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Leo N. Hierholzer. During his time as a member of the Saint Vincent monastic community, Verostko was responsible for several monumental projects on campus including a mural at the center of the campus library. Verostko notes: "My depiction of the glorified Jesus appears to have his feet, as it were, in two worlds – an early Byzantine world with eyes fixed on a heavenly place and the mid-20th Century world, surrounded by imagery indicative of new directions in the arts and sciences. This fusion of Byzantine and modern styles represents endeavors in all disciplines informed both by tradition and innovation."
- † **Gathering Hymn** – Words: Christopher Smart (1722-1771), an English poet and high church Anglican; his father-in-law locked him away in a mental asylum over Smart's supposed religious "mania". Even after Smart's eventual release, a negative reputation continued to pursue him as he was known for incurring more debt than he could repay; this ultimately led to his confinement in debtors' prison until his death. Music: melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816).
- † **Service Music** – William Mathias (1934-1992) –[© 1976 Oxford University Press]. "Music was an ever-present force for my father. I was aware from a very early age that the creative process was something always present for him – even when he was doing something else – and that it was a force which he could turn in any desired direction or channel at a given time. Hence his ability to compose a wide variety of orchestral, choral, instrumental or chamber music, as well as music for the church and for young people." –[daughter Rhiannon Mathias]
- † **Collect of the Day** – This is a revision of a collect formerly appointed for the feast day of Saint Philip and Saint James. It was composed for the 1549 Book and the result clause added in 1662. It has a particular allusion to the Gospel for Year A but is appropriate for readings of the other years as well. The prayer is that we may know Christ who is truth and follow Him who is the way that we may be led to Him who is the source of eternal life. –[Notes on the American Prayer Book by Marion Hatchett]
- † **Paschal Troparion** – At the funeral of Pope Francis, the patriarchs, archbishops, and metropolitans of the Eastern Catholic Churches stood beside his coffin. After thrice chanting the Paschal troparion and chanting prayers, one of the patriarchs censed the coffin. This ritual was also performed at the funeral of Pope John Paul II.

- † **Affirmation of Baptismal Faith** – Erasmus proposed a ritual in 1522 for adolescents to renew their baptismal vows; it was first recorded in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* as part of the confirmation rite. The ritual is conducted in both the Protestant and revised Catholic liturgies on similar lines. The presider faces the people, gives a short address and conducts a “dialogue” in the vernacular with the whole congregation.
- † **Celebrating Common Prayer** – Daily Office book for Anglicans, with Church of England texts, based on *Common Worship*.
- † **Baptismal Chant** – Words: Isaiah 12:2-6. Music Paul Inwood (b. 1946), published by OCP Publications © 1986, 1988.
- † **Prayers of the People** – According to the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer (1979), there is a great deal of flexibility with respect to the Prayers of the People. The single set form in Rite I and the six Forms in Rite II are available, but celebrants and liturgy planners are not limited to them. The only requirement is that the categories enumerated on page 359 are covered.
- † **Offertory Anthem** – “This Joyful Eastertide” based on a Dutch Carol and arranged by William H. Harris. The text is by George Ratcliffe Woodward, in *Carols for Easter and Ascensiontide*, 1894.
- † **Offertory Hymn** – Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868). Music: melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. J.S. Bach. Hintze traveled widely as a youth, including trips to Sweden and Lithuania. In 1659 he settled in Berlin; he is known mainly for his editing of the later editions of Johann Crüger’s *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, to which he contributed some sixty-five of his original tunes.
- † **First Communion Hymn** – Words: Although various sources have attributed this text to a number of different writers, it remains anonymous and basically untouched since it was first made popular by the Sacred Harp shape singers in 1844. Music: first set to this text in the second edition of *Southern Harmony*. Erik Routley describes this tune as “incomparably beautiful” –[*Psalter Hymnal Handbook*].
- † **Second Communion Hymn** – Words: George Herbert (1593-1633); the text follows a simple but effective structure, with the first line of each stanza offering three nouns (or metaphors) for Christ, and the successive three lines expounding each word in order. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), written for this text for his *Five Mystical Songs* (1911), for baritone, chorus, and orchestra. Even though the tune was intended for a soloist, its modest range of a minor seventh and its rhythmic simplicity make it singable for congregational purposes.
- † **Taizé Chant** – Words & Music © 2014 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications.
- † **Sending Hymn** – Words: George William Kitchin (1827-1912), inspired by the story of Constantine the Great’s conversion to Christianity after seeing a cross with *In hoc signo vinces* – (“In this Sign Conquer”) on it. Music: Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947). –[Both ©1974 Hope Publishing Co.] Stanley L. Osbourne wrote the “images are biblical, its moods expectant, its promises courageous, and its demands costly” and sees the cross as a symbol of the love of Jesus. However, Gail Ramshaw sees an endorsement of the Gospel of John’s description of the Passion and focuses on the cross as a source of agony rather than as a throne of Jesus.
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205 North Avenue, E, Cranford NJ 07016
 Parish Phone: (908) 276-4047
 Email: TrinityCranford@gmail.com



The Rev. Andrew David Kruger, Rector
 Personal Cell: (609) 933-5227
 Email: fr.andrew.kruger@gmail.com



Website: TrinityCranford.org ~ Instagram: [@trinity_cranford_1872](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_cranford_1872)

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