

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



“The Procession in the Streets of Jerusalem” — James Tissot

Palm Sunday; Sunday of the Passion

Rite I Holy Eucharist

March 29, 2026 at 8 AM

The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Presider

Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music

Cynthia Kolby, Flautist

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

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

The People gather in the Narthex

Acclamation

Common Worship

Presider Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.

People **Blessed in the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Introduction

Common Worship

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Savior, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with Christ in suffering, we may share the Lord's risen life.

Blessing the Palms

Common Worship

Presider Please raise your palms for the prayer of blessing:

Eternal God, bless these palms to our use: grant that we who have received them may ever hail as King, and love as Savior your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Palm Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Palm Procession

Common Worship

My brothers and sisters, we have heard how the crowds who welcomed Christ to Jerusalem cut branches from the trees to do him honor. During the procession, let us hold up our palms, and praise Christ our King and Savior.

Presider Let us go forth in peace.
People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The People process to their places singing the Palm Acclamation.

Ho - san - na in the high-est Ho-san-na, ho sa - na.

Blessed is he, he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Collect of the Day

BCP 168

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, who,
of thy tender love towards humanity,
hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all humanity should follow the example of his great humility:
Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The People are seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

9. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *
**my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.**
10. For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
**my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.**
11. I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my
neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
12. I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
13. For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
**they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.**
14. But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *
I have said, “You are my God.
15. My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**
16. Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.”

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Reader A reading from Paul’s letter to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Introduction to the Passion Gospel

Andrew Kruger

The Passion Gospel According to St Matthew

Refer to the Passion Bulletin

Prayers of the People

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Sally our Bishop, and Andrew our Rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President, Rebecca Michelle, our governor, and Kathleen, the mayor of this town, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [*especially...*], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Peace

BCP 332

The People stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The people greet one another.

Announcements

Andrew Kruger

Offertory Sentence

BCP 344

If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. *Matthew 5:23,24*



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the People.
Alternatively, you may give to Trinity online:
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

The Presentation of Gifts

1 Chronicles 29:14b

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord:

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP 333

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed,
he took bread; and when he had given thanks,
he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take, eat, this is my Body,
which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup;
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,
“Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament,
which is shed for you, and for many,
for the remission of sins.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 the Bread

BCP 337

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed, then the Presider says

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Invitation

BCP 338

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

Holy Communion

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 simple request to the priest.

Communion Musical Meditation

Cynthia Kolby

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

Presider Let us pray.

The People stand, and all pray together

**Almighty and everliving God,
we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us,
in these holy mysteries,
with the spiritual food of the most precious
Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are very members
 incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;
and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.
And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,
so to assist us with thy grace,
that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom,
with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory,
world without end. Amen.**

Blessing

BCP 339

And now may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The ministers recess.

Dismissal

BCP 340

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



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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.

Every Thursday by 2 PM, an email blast is sent 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.

What you need to know today...

Sunday School During the 10 AM Eucharist, children in PreK-3 through Grade 4 are invited to join in making pretzels in Sherlock Hall.

Children's Choir There is rehearsal today at 11:30 AM in the church; there is no rehearsal on Easter Sunday.

Join Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe The online vigil is at 8 PM tonight to pray for the continued conversion of our hearts and for God's blessing on our witness during Holy Week. Check this week's email blast for more information and to register.

"Wells & Water Systems" Outreach is collecting for the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) project, ending April 12. The goal is to raise \$750 for a share of a well. More information is in the email blast. Please donate online or make out checks to Trinity Church with "Wells" in memo line.

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; there are no offices on Good Friday. Please see details in the following section on Holy 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 Wednesday, April 1; there is no rehearsal for Handbells (usually 7 to 7:50 PM); however, the Adult Choir rehearses at its normal time from 8 PM to 9 PM.

What you need to know in the future...

Knitting Circle Saturday, April 11 from 10 AM to 11 AM in Witherington Hall. Outreach has organized a knitting circle knitting hats and scarves for the Seamen's Church Institute. Beginners, immediate and expert knitters are invited to join. If interested, contact Marion Nechuta at marionnechuta@yahoo.com.

Baptism will be offered on Pentecost Sunday, May 24 with enrollment for baptism on Sunday, April 12. The Baptismal Preparation Class is on Saturday, April 25, from 9 AM till 11 AM in Witherington Hall. Application forms are available from Marion Nechuta in the Parish Office.

Trinity's Spring Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner Friday, April 17 from 5 PM to 8 PM. (gluten-free available). Come for a delicious meal and fun evening. 50/50 and basket raffles available. Tickets for adults are \$20; children under 12 are \$5. To purchase tickets, see Cynthia Kolby after the 8 AM service, see Kathy Murray or Susan Nelson after the 10 AM service.

Outdoor Workday Saturday, April 18 (Rain date April 25) from 10 AM to 12 noon. A new landscape bed will be created along the front of Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS). To participate, please contact Paul Trader (paulsvny@yahoo.com or 845-499-6674).

Garden Team A group is being organized to help maintain the gardens and plants around Trinity. To join the team or learn more, contact Paul Trader (paulsvny@yahoo.com or 845-499-6674).

Trinity Senior Youth Mission Trip Saturday, June 20 through Friday, June 26 for high schoolers and includes whitewater rafting and serving impoverished communities in West Virginia. Check this week's email blast for more information.

Holy Week & Pascha/Easter at a Glance

Palm/Passion Sunday March 29; Rite I Holy Eucharist at 8 AM and Rite II Holy Eucharist at 10 AM.

Passions of the Soul Evensong Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week (March, 30, 31, & April 1) at 7:30 PM in the Church; services with a simple soup dinner.

Maundy Thursday April 2, the liturgy, including the washing of the feet is at 7:30 PM in the Church. This year we welcome the Calvary Lutheran congregation who will join us for the service, and their pastor, the Reverend Kathryn S. Irwin will preach. Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Triduum. The Triduum should be thought of as a single service that spanned Maundy Thursday evening until the break of dawn on Easter Sunday morning. The Maundy Thursday liturgy includes three major liturgical actions: Foot Washing; Holy Eucharist; and the stripping of the Holy Table including the procession of reserved sacrament to the Altar of Repose.

Maundy Thursday Vigil Immediately after the Maundy Thursday service; it's an opportunity to keep vigil in the church, just as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane. Please sign up for one of the hours of watching and praying.

Stations of the Cross Friday, April 3 at 8:30 AM in the Church. This liturgy concludes the Maundy Thursday vigil and is a devotion to the Passion of Christ which recalls the series of events at the end of Jesus' life from his condemnation to his burial. The Stations of the Cross (also known as "The Way of the Cross") imitates visiting the places of Jesus' Passion in the Holy Land by early Christian pilgrims.

Clergy Council Good Friday Service April 3 at 12 noon, hosted this year by Calvary Lutheran Church.

Good Friday Solemn Liturgy April 3 at 3 PM The Good Friday liturgy traditionally includes: the Passion according to St John; The General Intercessions; the Veneration of the cross; And Communion from Reserve Sacrament. This year we will include the Orthodox tradition of the "Deposition from the Cross" – which is the solemn liturgical commemoration of Christ's body being taken down from the Cross and processed to the tomb. Please participate in what will be a tremendously rich and moving service.

Good Friday Offering Each year, on this day, offerings are invited from across The Episcopal Church to support the four dioceses in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Funds are used to promote peace and mutual understanding through pastoral care, health care, and educational programs throughout the region. Its history reaches back to 1922 and is an expression of our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Christ who keep the faith alive throughout the Land of the Holy One. Please make checks out to Trinity Episcopal Church; the contributions are then directed to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

Paschal Vigil Holy Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 PM. This year we are invited to join Calvary Lutheran (108 Eastman St, Cranford). Come and support Fr Andy who will be preaching at this service. From earliest times Christians have gathered on the eve of the Paschal/Easter season to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Paschal Vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Lent and Holy Week and leads into the celebration of Christ's resurrection. The Vigil Liturgy contains four main parts: The lighting of the Easter Candle from the Easter fire; hearing the great Hebrew stories of the faith while gathered around the Easter fire; the Liturgy of Initiation (everyone will have the opportunity to renew their Baptismal vows); and Holy Eucharist.

Easter Sunday April 5, Rite I Holy Eucharist at 8 AM and Rite II Holy Eucharist at 10 AM. Easter Sunday at Trinity is always a wonderful celebration, don your Sunday best and come and proclaim our risen conquering Lord! At the 10 AM service, children will have the opportunity to participate in an Easter egg hunt on the church grounds during the sermon. Also, during that service, and as is traditional at Trinity, everyone will have the opportunity to sing the 'Hallelujah Chorus' at the conclusion of the liturgy.

Palm Sunday; The Sunday of the Passion

Palm-Passion Sunday invites us into a holy tension. We gather with palm branches in hand, echoing the cries of "Hosanna!" that once welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. For a moment, we identify ourselves with those first crowds – we bless the palms, we lift our voices in praise, and we are glad to see our Lord. We welcome Christ in.

Yet even as we rejoice, we are asked to see more clearly and to listen more deeply. This is not a simple story of triumph. The joy of the crowd is real, but it is fleeting. The voices that shout "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord" will, before long, cry out for crucifixion. And so the question presses itself upon us: what about us?

When Jesus arrives – not only in Jerusalem long ago, but in our lives here and now – are we truly glad to see him? For when Christ comes, our Lord does not always come as we expect. Jesus comes with a truth that unsettles, a love that demands, a presence that challenges what we would rather keep safe and unchanged. May God grant us the courage to enter into this grace anew and afresh this year. Amen.

Cover art

"The Procession in the Streets of Jerusalem (Le cortège dans les rues de Jérusalem)" by James Tissot (1836–1902) is a significant work which is part of the tumultuous artistic context of the end of the 19th century. Opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper. Brooklyn Museum, purchased by public subscription.



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