

# Trinity Episcopal Church

*Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey*



*“Missal of Eberhard von Greiffenklau; initial D at beginning of prayer during the blessing of ashes on Ash Wednesday”*

## *Ash Wednesday*

Rite I Holy Eucharist

February 18, 2026 at 7 AM & 12 NOON

*The Reverend Andrew Kruger, Rector & Presider*

*Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music*

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

*The bell is rung and the People stand.*

## Acclamation

BCP 323

*Presider*      Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
*People*        **God's mercy endureth for ever.**

## Gathering Intent

BCP 264

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

## Collect of the Day

BCP 264

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider*      Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we,  
worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Reader* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near — a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 103:8-14

*Dominus misericors est*

BCP 733

8. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

9. He will not always accuse us, \*  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

10. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

11. For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**
12. As far as the east is from the west, \*  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**
13. As a father cares for his children, \*  
**so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**
14. For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
**he remembers that we are but dust.**

## **Second Reading**

2 Corinthians 5:20b — 6:10

*Reader* A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The People stand.*

## Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.  
*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

## Homily

Andrew Kruger

## Blessing the Ashes

BCP 265

To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*The People kneel, and silence is kept. Then the Presider blesses the ashes.*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*The people come forward, as they would for Holy Communion, to receive the imposition of ashes.*

Turn away from sin, and believe the Good News.

## **Penitential Litany**

BCP 267

*All kneeling, the Presider says*

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us. **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation.

**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord.

**Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The Presider stands and says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The People stand.*

*Presider*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*      **And with thy spirit.**

**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 II**

BCP 340

*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 was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

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, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in 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*

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.**

## **Invitation**

BCP 338

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

## **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 at this time. Gluten-free wafers are available by simple request to the priest.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Psalm 51: 7-12 KJV

*Presider*      Let us pray.

*The People stand, and all pray together*

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Make me to hear joy and gladness;  
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.  
Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence;  
and take not thy holy spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;  
and uphold me with thy free spirit.**

**Amen.**

*The Presider pronounces the blessing*

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 to the Narthex.*

## Dismissal

*Presider*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

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