

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



“Jesus Healing the Blind Man” — Brian Jekel

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Rite I Holy Eucharist

March 15, 2026 at 8 AM

The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider

Anthony Joel Rafaniello, Director of Music

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

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

The bell is rung and the People kneel.

Acclamation

BCP 323

Presider Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People **God's mercy endureth for ever.**

The Decalogue

BCP 317

Presider God spake these words, and said:

I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt do no murder.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not steal.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet.

**Lord have mercy upon us,
and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 320

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**Almighty and most merciful father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our
own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to
have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to
have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto all people
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Absolution

BCP 320

Silence is kept then the Presider and People say

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission
of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life,
and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

BCP 167

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ
came down from heaven to be the true bread
which giveth life to the world:
Evermore give us this bread,
that he may live in us, and we in him;
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Reader A reading from the First Book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by.

And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

BCP 476

1. The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures *
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul *
**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil *
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies *
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Reader A reading from St Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Gospel

John 9:1-41

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

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.”

But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The People stand.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

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 (Mikie), 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.**

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; who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

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.

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...

St. John's Sandwich Sunday Today; people are needed to make sandwiches after the services and deliver them to St. John's in Elizabeth. To help, please contact Marion Nechuta (marionnechuta@yahoo.com) or Helen Shteynberg (hshteynberg@gmail.com).

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

Children's Choir The choir rehearses before the 10 AM service so, there is no rehearsal after the service today.

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

Easter Flowers As part of the preparation for celebrating Pascha/Easter, please contribute towards the flowers this year. Envelopes marked for this purpose are in the narthex of the church. Alternatively, give to Trinity online and record 'Easter Flowers' in the memo line. All remembrances must be logged online via the QR code (below) or via the link in the email blast before March 22. Loved one's names will be remembered in the Pascha/Easter Bulletins, and at Morning Prayer during Paschal/Easter week each person shall be prayed for by name.



What you need to know 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.

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer Monday to Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM, respectively, online.

Handbell Choir There is rehearsal this Wednesday, March 18 from 7 to 7:50 PM in the church.

Adult Choir Rehearsal is this Wednesday, March 18 from 8 to 9 PM in Witherington Hall.

Fellowship Luncheon Thursday, March 19 from 12:30 to 2 PM in Witherington Hall. The St. Patrick's luncheon has corned beef, cabbage, potatoes & soda bread. Speaker TBD. Call Susan Olszewski (908-757-9561) or Susan Nelson (908-397-3944) for more info.

Compline There is no Compline for the next five weeks due to the Lenten Course (see details below).

Evensong This Thursday at 7:30 PM as part of the Lenten Course (see details below).

Stations of the Reparations Saturday, March 21 at 11 AM, hosted by St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, in Elizabeth. A moving liturgy with diocesan congregational reflections on our racial history.

What you need to know in the future...

Cranford's 15th Annual Community Holocaust Day of Remembrance Wednesday, March 25 at 7 PM at Hillside Avenue School.

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 Kolbe after the 8 AM service, see Kathy Murray or Susan Nelson after the 10 AM service.

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.

Liturgical Notes for Rose Sunday

First, a numerical puzzle. That Lent consists of forty days is rather well known. But go to a calendar; count beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending with the day before Easter. The result? Not forty days but forty-six days! Why? Because the forty days of Lent are fast days in the broad sense, times of discipline and self-restraint. But the Lord's Day, being a Little Easter, is always a feast within the church. Therefore in order to have forty days of fasting, six Sundays must be excluded from the count. Lent in truth is forty weekdays plus six Lord's Days.

This theology of the Lord's Day, once so central to our earliest brothers and sisters in the faith, was gradually forgotten. As the Season of Lent developed and became established in the church even the Lord's Day became an enforced fast. However, 46 days of fasting is a bit much even for those with an iron clad ascetic spirituality. Rose or Refreshment Sunday came to be considered a day of relaxation from normal Lenten rigors; a day of hope with Easter at last within sight.

Traditionally, weddings (otherwise banned during Lent) could be performed on this day, and servants were released from service for the day to visit their mothers (hence it also being called 'Mothering Sunday'). The theology of the Lord's Day was recovered by the Liturgical Renewal at the end of the 19th century and is reflected in the 1979 BCP. Therefore, we keep Rose Sunday, not to break our fast for the first time but, to be reminded that in the midst of our Lenten disciplines the hope of the Easter Season is at hand. Just as Spring promises to thaw the earth, so Rose Sunday promises the full 50-day Season of Easter celebrations becoming visible on the horizon.

Cranford's Annual Community Holocaust Day of Remembrance

Cranford's 15th Annual Community Holocaust Day of Remembrance will be held on Wednesday, March 25 at 7 PM at Hillside Avenue School. It is organized by the Cranford Clergy Council, the Cranford Interfaith Human Relations Committee, Cranford Public Schools, and St. Michael School. This annual event aims to honor the memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust while educating about the horrors of genocide. This year's theme is "Enduring Lives: What We Protect, We Must Remember." We honor the individuals who risked their lives to hide and rescue children and adults of the Holocaust and to preserve the truth for future generations. It challenges us to reflect on our responsibility to engage with their accounts and ensure their stories are never forgotten.

This event is free and open to the public. It will also be recorded and aired on Cranford's TV35. Our keynote speaker will be Lydia Fogelman, daughter of survivor Phyllis Fogelman. Lydia will recount her mother's experience in the Lvov Ghetto in Poland, where she witnessed countless atrocities before her family escaped and spent two years in hiding.

Fr. Andrew Kruger of Cranford's Trinity Episcopal Church and chair of the Cranford Clergy Council will introduce the performances and speakers, which include Cranford Township Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty and Cranford Public Schools Superintendent Mark Cantagallo. Performers include the Dance Ensemble and the Madrigals from Cranford High School, as well as the orchestra from Hillside Avenue School, the chorus from Orange Avenue School, and original reflective poetry from St. Michael School students.

Lectionary & Liturgy

This is the Sunday of the Man Born Blind. This gospel reading has been used since early days of the church to help those preparing for baptism understand the process of enlightenment they are going through. In this story, the blind man progresses from the restoration of his physical sight to a deeper enlightenment about God until he is able to recognize Jesus as his Redeemer.

The first reading takes us to the point in the history of salvation when David is chosen by God as king. As is so often the case with the outstanding heroes of the faith, God's choice is not apparent to those who evaluate by human standards. David's anointing is an image of our own baptism in which God chose us and set us apart not for our own merits but because God loves us.

The second reading describes how those who have been baptized and now live in the light will carry on their lives. The final verse may be an ancient Christian baptismal hymn.

We, like the man born blind, are now awake and filled with the Light from Light through our baptism. As we continue in our Lenten pilgrimage toward Easter, enlightened by God's Word and nourished by the sacraments, we find ourselves in the company of a great family of believers. Let us continue to pray for those preparing to be enlightened and anointed in baptism by the Holy Spirit at Easter.

Cover art

"Christ and the Samaritan Woman" by Brian Jekel (b. 1951); many recognize his vibrant and imaginative paintings in Abeka materials and Bible Flash-A-Cards®. Jekel met his future wife Marlene when she was studying to illustrate children's books. Through her, he learned about the Lord. "She was going to a church in South Denver. They were having a Sunday school contest. I thought, I'll help her out. And so I went."

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY
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The Episcopal
DIOCESE OF
NEW JERSEY
Established in 1785

A MOVING LITURGY WITH
CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
ON OUR RACIAL HISTORY

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026, AT 11:00 AM

HOSTED BY

ST. ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
305 N. BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH, NJ 07207

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 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 (via the email blast) for one of the hours of watching and praying.

Stations of the Cross Friday, April 3 at 8:30 AM in the Church.

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

Good Friday April 3 at 3 PM, the liturgy, including the veneration of the cross, in the Church.

Paschal Vigil Holy Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 PM. This year we are invited to join Calvary Lutheran (108 Eastman St, Cranford) at 7:30 PM. Come and support Fr Andy who will be preaching at this service.

Easter Sunday April 5, Rite I Holy Eucharist at 8 AM and Rite II Holy Eucharist at 10 AM.



Website: TrinityCranford.org

Instagram: [@trinity_cranford_1872](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_cranford_1872)

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Meeting ID: *595 488 3214*

Password: *1872*

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