

# Trinity Episcopal Church

*Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey*



*“Nicodemus Came to Jesus by Night” — Walter Rane*

## *The Second Sunday in Lent*

Rite I Holy Eucharist

March 1, 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 166

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy:  
Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways,  
and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith  
to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word,  
Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit  
liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 121

*Levavi oculos*

BCP 779

1. I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
**from where is my help to come?**
2. My help comes from the Lord, \*  
**the maker of heaven and earth.**

3. He will not let your foot be moved \*  
**and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**
4. Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
**shall neither slumber nor sleep;**
5. The Lord himself watches over you; \*  
**the Lord is your shade at your right hand,**
6. So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
**nor the moon by night.**
7. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
**it is he who shall keep you safe.**
8. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
**from this time forth for evermore.**

## Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The People stand.*

## **Gospel**

John 3:1-17

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

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Homily**

Andrew Kruger

## **Affirmation of Baptismal Faith**

*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 your self?

**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**

Celebrating Common Prayer

Let us give thanks to the Lord:

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

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.

**Blessèd be God for ever.**

*The Presider sprinkles the people with the aspergillum.*

## **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 (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. 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, 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.

## Cover Art

### *Nicodemus Came to Jesus by Night* – Walter Rane

Walter Rane is a contemporary American religious artist known for his reverent, luminous portrayals of biblical scenes. Raised in a Latter-day Saint tradition and trained at Brigham Young University, Rane devoted much of his career to depicting Christ's life with emotional depth and gentle realism. His works are widely used in churches and devotional settings, where they help viewers imaginatively enter the scriptural story.

The scene comes from the Gospel of John (appointed for today) where Nicodemus, a Pharisee and leader, comes to Jesus under cover of darkness. In the painting, the night is not threatening but intimate. Christ's face is calm, illuminated with quiet authority; Nicodemus leans forward, earnest and searching. The shadows suggest both uncertainty and possibility—the space where questions are welcomed and grace is revealed.

Lent is a season of honest seeking. Like Nicodemus, we may come with doubts or half-formed hopes. Yet here we are reminded: even in the night, Christ meets us with light, speaking of new birth, boundless love, and the promise that "God so loved the world."

## 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 March:

Madlen Michael, March 3	Stephanie Michael, March 3	Paul Trader, March 27	Lisa Williams, March 15
Arwen Morgan Kelly, March 31	Lucy Lack, March 2	Sybil Milas, March 2	Vittoria Bain, March 2

## Lectionary & Liturgy

Today's readings focus on the theme of journey. Whenever we travel, we undergo the pain of leaving behind familiar things and the uncertainty of a new future. In Lent, Christians remember that they are life-long "pilgrims in a strange land," people on a journey into the future that God has prepared for us.

The Old Testament reading tells of the story of Abraham's calling by God, and the beginning of his journey into the Promised Land. In this new and unknown place, God opened up new rivers of grace for Abraham and Sarah. In the second reading, Paul expounds on Abraham as the father of faith and as our ancestor in the faith. The journey begun by Abraham and Sarah is a journey that continues in our lives and a journey begun this Lent by all those among us who seek baptism at Easter.

Nicodemus is also interested in a journey—the journey into God's Kingdom. Here a leading rabbi comes to discuss God's Word with Jesus, whom he recognizes as a fellow rabbi. John tells us this was Passover season and it was accounted specially blessed for rabbis to discuss God's Word through the night during that season. Jesus reveals the way into God's Kingdom to be a new birth, a birth from heaven (the original text means both) through water and the Holy Spirit. We gather to support each other in our journey, to pray for those who will be baptized, and to be nourished by Christ in his Word and Sacraments—they are our food for the journey.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.*

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### What you need to know today...

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

**Children's Choir** There is no rehearsal today.

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

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

**Mardi Gras** \$568.80 was raised after expenses which will go towards the operating budget; thank you to Joyce Cieslak, Marion Nechuta, Justin Bain and the team for making the occasion such a resounding success.

**Seamen's Church Institute** Today is the last day that Outreach is collecting for SCI's annual "Christmas at Sea" program. Check this week's email blast for items needed which can be placed in the box for Seamen's in the conference room. Thank you.

**Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle** There are no altar flowers during Lent; however, the sanctuary candle is available for personal attribution, to remember loved ones, to honor others, to celebrate lives. The deadline is 4 PM Wednesday each week; multiple attributions are allowed.

### **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 4 from 7 to 7:50 PM in the church.

**Adult Choir** Rehearsal is this Wednesday, March 4 from 8 to 9 PM in Witherington Hall.

**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).

**Trinity Men's Group** This Saturday March 7 from 8 to 9 AM in Witherington Hall.

### **What you need to know in the future...**

**Trinity Women's Group** Monday, March 9 from 7 to 8 PM online.

**Trinity Episcopal Senior Youth (TESY)** Saturday, March 14 from 10 AM to 12 Noon. TESI is hosting a cleanup of the Sherlock Hall loft; pizza and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. To sign up, email Katie Annarelli (kathleen.m.annarelli@outlook.com).

**Trinity Knitting Circle** Saturday, March 14, from 11 to 12 noon in Witherington Hall.

**Sandwich Sunday** Sunday, March 15; 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
- Saturday, March 14 from 10 AM to 11 AM – assemble food bags in Sherlock Hall
- Sunday, March 15 – assemble sandwiches between services and after 10 am service
- Sunday, March 15 after Fellowship Hour – transport the sandwiches and food packets to St John's and help serve food

**Mission** April 14 to April 17; the annual Episcopal Global Mission Conference is in San Francisco this year. Find more information in this week's email blast and contact Fr. Andy if interested in attending.

**Anti-Racism Commission** The Diocese of New Jersey offers training several times each year. The next session is this spring, from April 21 through June 16, on Tuesday mornings from 9 AM to 11 AM. If interested, see this week's email blast.

### **Trinity Senior Youth Mission Trip**

This summer, Trinity is joining St. Andrew's, New Providence, and other Episcopal Churches on a mission trip to McDowell County, West Virginia, one of the most impoverished regions of the United States.

The trip is Saturday, June 20 through Friday, June 26. We will drive down on Saturday, and take a whitewater rafting trip on Sunday, before heading to our final destination on Monday. We will be working at Highland Educational Project, an outreach project of the Diocese of West Virginia, doing projects such as painting, light construction, and other things needed by that community. Night activities will include cookouts and – of course – s'mores. The trip is open to high schoolers, and those who will be entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade. (If your child is entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade and wants to attend, speak with Casey Woodruff.)

An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8, after the 10 AM service, in Witherington Hall. All interested youth and their parents are encouraged to attend to find out more about what promises to be a fun trip and a transformative experience.

### **Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession)**

God has shown great love for humanity by reconciling us to himself through the blood of Jesus Christ. During his earthly ministry our Lord called people to turn away from sin, believe in him and amend their lives. This ministry of reconciliation has been entrusted to the Church.

By our baptism we enter into the Church and become sharers in all the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection. But we are weak; we sin after baptism. Therefore we need to repent and be renewed in Christ. If we are to return to God in true penitence there must be a willingness to open our hearts, with all the darkness to be found there, to the light of the Holy Spirit.

We may receive God's forgiveness and be reconciled to the Lord in various ways, one of which is confession to God in the presence of a priest. Every priest in exercising this ministry of reconciliation is solemnly bound to observe secrecy concerning all those matters which are confessed. Please contact the parish office directly if you would like to participate in this sacramental rite. The liturgy, containing two forms, begins on page 447 of the Book of Common Prayer.

## **Holy Week & Pascha/Easter at a Glance**

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

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

**Maundy Thursday** is on 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** follows 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** are offered on Friday, April 3, at 8:30 AM in the Church.

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

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

**The Paschal Vigil** is on Holy Saturday, April 4. 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** is on April 5, Rite I Holy Eucharist at 8 AM and Rite II Holy Eucharist at 10 AM.



## 2026 Lenten Course: The Eight Passions of the Soul

This Lent and Holy Week, the congregation will explore the 8 passions of the soul as they were taught by St John Cassian, who died around 435 AD. He was a disciple of St. John Chrysostom and in his writing and teaching he shared much of the spiritual wisdom of the Christian East with his Western brothers and sisters. The focus is on his treatise to Bishop Kaspar, titled 'On the Eight Vices' taken from *The Institutes, Books V-XII*. Cassian's writing teaches us how to develop our self-knowledge and awareness, so that we can relate to the world without selfish illusions.

The course begins on Thursday, February 26 at 7:30 PM and continues every Thursday in Lent and includes services on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week; 8 sessions in all. Each session (listed below) will begin in the church with evensong and conclude in Witherington Hall with a simple soup supper and an opportunity for further discussion. An excellent book to read in conjunction with taking the course is Rowan Williams's "Passions of the Soul."



NB: Please sign up to volunteer to read at evensong; assist with setup and takedown; offer to make soup; and indicate the intention to attend so that it can be catered appropriately. The link is on the weekly email blast or you may use the QR code (left). Here are the session dates and themes:

- Thursday, February 26: Gluttony
- Thursday, March 5: Unchastity
- Thursday, March 12: Avarice
- Thursday, March 19: Anger
- Thursday, March 26: Dejection
- Monday, March 30: Listlessness
- Tuesday, March 31: Self-esteem
- Wednesday, April 1: Pride



Website: [TrinityCranford.org](http://TrinityCranford.org)

Instagram: [@trinity\\_cranford\\_1872](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_cranford_1872)

Facebook: Trinity Episcopal Church, Cranford

Connect to Online Services and Meetings: [us04web.zoom.us/j/595488321](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/595488321)

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