

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



Glass cantharus (drinking cup); Roman, 40–80 CE

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Rite I Holy Eucharist

June 28, 2026 at 8 AM — Proper 8

The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider

Tony Pagano, Postulant & Preacher

Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music

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

*The Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
& in celebration of the 42nd wedding anniversary of Marion and Terry Nechuta*

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

The bell is rung and the People stand.

Acclamation

BCP 323

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Presider Let us pray.

People **Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Great Commandment

BCP 324

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie

BCP 324

Presider Kyrie eleison.

People **Christe eleison.**

Presider Kyrie eleison.

Collect of the Day

BCP 178

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

O Almighty God,
who hast built thy Church upon the foundation
of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone:
Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine,
that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee;
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 sit.

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-14

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 13

Usquequo, Domine?

BCP 597

1. How long, O Lord? will you forget me for ever? *
how long will you hide your face from me?
2. How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day? *
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
3. Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God; *
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
4. Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
5. But I put my trust in your mercy; *
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
6. I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me richly; *
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

Second Reading

Romans 6:12-23

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

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

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

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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

Homily

Tony Pagano

Nicene Creed

BCP 326

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, 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.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 331

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The People kneel.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Absolution

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Comfortable Words

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden,
and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

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

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*



*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, who by water and the Holy Spirit hast made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth thy glory in all the world. 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

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

The Presider and People say

**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

Traditional

Presider Let us pray.

The People stand, and all pray together

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee,
For that thou hast fed us with this holy sacrament,
to knit us in one with Christ our Savior,
and to grant us a foretaste of that Heavenly Banquet
which thou hast prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

Blessing

BCP 339

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.

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. An email blast is sent every Thursday by 2 PM with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information on events, etc. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

What you need to know today...

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

Vestry Meeting Today at 11:30 AM in Witherington Hall, please pray for the leadership of our parish:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in Trinity's Vestry for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trinity Episcopal Senior Youth (TESY) Today at 12:30 PM. All confirmed youth ages 13-18 are welcome.

What you need to know this week...

The Daily Offices Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday-Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM.

Rector on Vacation This Wednesday, July 1 to Monday, July 6, and then on Retreat at Holy Cross from Tuesday, July 7 through Friday, July 10.

Parish Office Hours Office Manager Marion Nechuta is available this week on Wednesday and Thursday from 12 noon to 3:30 PM.

Compline This Thursday at 8 PM online

What you need to know in the future...

Summer Schedule Sunday, July 5 to Sunday, August 30, there is only one Sunday service at 9 AM. During this summer period the fourth Sunday of the month is a Rite I said service, all other services are Rite II with music.

Sight and Sound: "Joshua" Saturday, October 3 at 3 PM in Lancaster PA. Tickets are \$90; see Bonnie Gentesse (908-377-4344).

Reflection on Today's First Reading

Genesis 22:1-14 – the binding of Isaac – is among the most disturbing passages in all of scripture. God commands Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son, the child of promise, and Abraham sets out to obey. Even knowing the ending does not remove the horror. The story unsettles us precisely because it touches our deepest fears: violence justified in God's name, the vulnerability of children, and the terrible possibility of confusing faithfulness with cruelty.

Jewish tradition has long wrestled with this text, known as the *Akedah* ("the binding"). Many rabbinic interpreters understood it as a test of Abraham's trust and covenant faithfulness, while also emphasizing that God ultimately prevents the sacrifice. The climax of the story is not Isaac's death, but Isaac's rescue. Early Christians often read the passage as foreshadowing Christ: the beloved Son carrying the wood of sacrifice up the mountain, and the Father willing to give what is most precious. Yet even within these traditions, the text has never ceased to trouble readers.

The French academic, René Girard, offers a compelling way of understanding why this narrative is so significant. Girard believed that human societies have often maintained order through violence directed toward a scapegoat – a victim whose sacrifice supposedly restores peace or wins divine favor. Ancient religions frequently sanctified this pattern. In many cultures, child sacrifice was not unimaginable; it was part of the logic of sacred violence.

Girard argues that Genesis 22 marks a decisive rupture with that world. The crucial moment is not the command to sacrifice Isaac, but God's interruption of it. At the decisive instant, Abraham is stopped: "Do not lay your hand on the boy." A ram is provided instead. For Girard, the story reveals a God who does not ultimately desire human sacrifice. The narrative exposes the horror of sacrificial violence rather than endorsing it.

This reading helps explain why the text remains so emotionally difficult. The terror we feel is not something to explain away too quickly. It is part of the revelation itself. We are meant to recoil from the possibility that violence could be called holy. The story forces us to confront the long human history of sacrificing others – children, enemies, strangers, even entire peoples – for the sake of religion, nation, security, or ideology. I hope that hearing this text will provoke us to perceive not only the scapegoating of Isaac, but also the pervasive scapegoating of so many people in our own time.

Lectionary & Liturgy

Today we continue reading from the Gospel according to Matthew. This passage follows Jesus' commissioning the disciples to go out and preach and his warning of the opposition they will encounter. Today he concludes this section describing those who accept their message. Matthew is speaking here of us and of all who have accepted the message and who have received the reward of our faith. Abraham's greatest test of faith now comes as God tells him to sacrifice the child he and his wife had awaited for so long. Abraham sets out to obey but God intervenes, spares the child, and renews the promise to Abraham's descendants, including us. The reading from Romans today carries on Paul's discussion of the result of baptism. We are dead to sin but we still have the choice between sin and grace. The choice is to be controlled by sin or by God. One receives only death from sin but from God comes sanctification, growing into the image of God in which we were created. We gather as people who find our life in Christ rather than in the conventions of the world. Our action in worship is a contradiction of the world's standards. Our life, as we go forth from worship, is to show forth our new way of existing, by ministry to the poor and neglected, that God saves all who turn to God in faith. We are to live in accordance with God's kingdom, even when that reality is hard to find in the world around us.

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

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