

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



“The Worker’s Cross” – Fritz Eichenberg

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rite I Holy Eucharist

September 6, 2026 at 8 AM — Proper 18

The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider

Casey Woodruff, Senior Warden & Preacher

Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music

Kathleen M. Murray, Junior Warden

*The sanctuary candle and altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of Anthony Charles Alfano by Cheryl Pantina
and in loving memory of Carol Fricke from Arlene Fricke*

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

The bell is rung and the People stand.

Gathering Sentences

BCP 323

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Presider There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

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.**

Kyrie

BCP 324

Presider Kyrie eleison.
People **Christe eleison.**
Presider Kyrie eleison.

Collect of the Day

BCP 181

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee,
to trust in thee with all our heart;
seeing that, as thou dost always resist the proud
who confide in their own strength,
so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

Reader A reading from the Book of Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: "This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly.

It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149

Cantate Domino

BCP 597

1. Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song; *
 sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
2. Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
 let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
3. Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
 let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
4. For the LORD takes pleasure in his people *
 and adorns the poor with victory.
5. Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
 let them be joyful on their beds.
6. Let the praises of God be in their throat *
 and a two-edged sword in their hand;
7. To wreak vengeance on the nations *
 and punishment on the peoples;
8. To bind their kings in chains *
 and their nobles with links of iron;
9. To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
 this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

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

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not covet" and any other commandment are summed up in these words, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

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

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.

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.

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 who are celebrating their Baptismal Anniversaries in September include:

Charlotte Bain	Sept. 1	Ray Berry	Sept. 14	Heather Burnett	Sept. 23
Robert Barone	Sept. 23	Allyssa Knapp	Sept. 10	Ruth Uhde	Sept. 21
Carolyn Dittmar	Sept. 12	Toru Ishiyama	Sept. 2	Cindy Concannon	Sept. 11
James Patrick Gluck	Sept. 21	Anthony Rafaniello	Sept. 11	Logan Garstka	Sept.
Madeleine Brennan	Sept. 4	Lynn Solecki	Sept. 2	Bethany Williams	Sept 25

What you need to know today...

The Blessing of Students and Educators Sunday, September 6 during the 10 AM Eucharist.

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

What you need to know this week...

Labor Day Tomorrow, Monday September 7 *From the Book of Common Prayer:* Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *[Collects for Various Occasions, Book of Common Prayer 261]*

The Daily Offices Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday-Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM. Add and update prayer requests online at the church website. The list is prayed twice a day at Morning and Evening Prayer.

Parish Office Hours Office Manager Marion Nechuta is available from Tuesday to Thursday from 12 noon to 3:30 PM.

Handbell Choir Rehearsals Starting Wednesday, September 9 from 7 PM to 7:50 PM in the church. Contact Anthony Rafaniello with any questions.

Trinity Adult Choir This Wednesday, September 9 from 8 PM to 9 PM in the church.

Annual Cranford 9/11 Memorial Service Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 PM at the 9/11 park in Cranford.

Compline This Thursday at 8 PM online.

What you need to know in the future...

Children's Choir Registration is open. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings from 11:30 AM to 12 PM in the church the choir sings at each month's Intergenerational Service. Children's Choir is recommended for novice readers in Grade 1 or older. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 20. Please register your child using the QR code here:



Sunday School Sunday, September 13 is the first day of class and open to children 3½ years to Grade 4. After the blessing at the beginning of the service, the children go to class with their teachers and return to the worship service for the Eucharist.

Round Up Sunday September 13, only ONE service at 10 AM for Trinity's annual after-summer welcome-back service followed by a parish-wide BBQ. Everyone is encouraged to come and help kick-off the church year. Learn about the church ministries and volunteer opportunities to grow the body of Christ here at Trinity. There will be great food and games for all ages. Click on the QR code for attendance (to help plan the food) or to volunteer to help on the BBQ. For questions, please contact Tom Kaercher (908-757-9561 home, 908-591-0962 cell) or tkaercher7@gmail.com .



Pledge Giving Wondering how things are going with pledge-giving this year? Summer schedules can sometimes make it easy for payments to fall behind. During Round Up Sunday, financial secretary Carol Beier is available to meet privately with anyone who wants to check their pledge status, review their giving record or discuss any other concerns or questions. Just stop by for a quick, confidential chat. She is here to help.

Outreach September 13 to September 27, there will be a collection for Disaster Relief for the ERD (Episcopal Relief & Development); donations by cash, check or breeze. The Committee thanks all who donated to the "Mothers & Newborn" project for the ERD in June. \$540 was collected which the parish has rounded up to \$600; the check will be sent to ERD shortly.

Trinity Women's Group Monday, September 14 at 7 PM online.

Anti-Racism Training September 16, 23, 30 and October 7, 14, and with a follow-up session on November 11 from 7 PM-9 PM. Provided by the The Diocesan Anti-Racism Commission; \$100 per person. Registration link in the email blast.

Fellowship Luncheon Thursday, September 17 from 12:30 to 2 PM in Witherington Hall. Speaker is parishioner Scott Nelson, who recently served with the Peace Corps in Vietnam. On the menu is quiche with sides & desserts. All are welcome. Please call Susan Olszewski (908-757-9561) or Susan Nelson (908-397-3944) for questions or to volunteer help.

Sing at St. John's The Trinity Choir has been invited to sing at the Feast of St. Francis service at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City on Sunday, October 4, with a rehearsal on Saturday, October 3. It will be an extraordinary experience to sing in one of the great cathedrals of the world, as part of one of its signature celebrations. The trip will involve some expense, including the use of a TEDS bus and driver for transportation. To help sponsor this special opportunity, or would like more information, please speak with Anthony Rafaniello or contact the Parish Office.

A New Thurible Set for Trinity

This Sunday, Trinity will use for the first time a new polished brass thurible, incense boat, and spoon, generously given by Arlene Fricke in loving memory of her sister, Carol Fricke. The set was supplied by *Adrian Hamers* and will become part of the parish's regular liturgical furnishings.

In Anglican practice, the first use of a liturgical object serves as its blessing. By being taken up into the worship of the Church and used for the purpose for which it was given, the thurible and its accompanying vessels are set apart for the service of God. Their dedication is expressed most fittingly in the liturgy itself. We give thanks for Arlene's generosity, for the memory of Carol, and for this beautiful gift to the worship of Trinity Church.

Trinity Choir at St. John the Divine

The Trinity Choir has received an extraordinary invitation to sing at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City as part of its annual Feast of St. Francis celebration. We will travel to the Cathedral on Saturday, October 3 for a rehearsal, returning the following morning for the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, October 4. The choir will sing under the direction of the Cathedral's acclaimed music director, Kent Tritle, alongside other experienced musicians. I am particularly excited about what this experience will offer our singers. We will learn and perform challenging music in one of the world's great sacred spaces, adapt to an entirely different acoustic, and collaborate with musicians beyond our usual Trinity community. Experiences like this push an ensemble beyond what is familiar and give us opportunities to grow in ways that our regular work does not always provide.

The invitation came from Bryan Zaros, one of the Cathedral's music directors. Bryan and I studied together at Westminster Choir College, where we both earned degrees in Sacred Music, and I was delighted to hear from him with this invitation for the Trinity Choir. Music has a wonderful way of creating and sustaining community, and the relationships we form through it can continue to bring new connections and opportunities years later.

This year's Feast of St. Francis celebration will be particularly special. The Cathedral is marking the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis with a renewed focus on his vision of creation and our responsibility for the earth. While the traditional procession of animals will not take place this year, the service will feature singers, instrumentalists, and dancers, with music including selections from Paul Winter and Paul Halley's *Missa Gaia*. Above it all will be *Gaia*, a 23-foot illuminated representation of the Earth suspended in the Cathedral's immense nave. It promises to be a remarkable setting for worship and music, and an unforgettable experience for the Trinity Choir.

The choir will travel together by bus, thanks to TEDS and Nancy Ditzel for making the bus available to us. If you would like to help with the transportation costs, including the driver, your support would be greatly appreciated. To contribute to the choir's participation, or for more information, please speak with me or contact the Parish Office. Thank you for supporting the music ministry and helping make this special experience possible for the Trinity Choir.

Anthony Rafaniello, Trinity Music Director

Lectionary & Liturgy

We now reach a section of Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus teaches about God's way of dealing with humanity: namely, forgiveness. Today's reading is primarily concerned with the Church's role as the agent of forgiveness. Even when a member of the Church is unrepentant, the Church is not to give up on that person easily. We are to make every effort to move the sinner to repent and accept the forgiveness of God, which Jesus has commissioned the Church to offer.

The story of Moses and the Exodus continues today. God and the Egyptian king have been in a struggle. Now comes the final test. We hear the instructions to the Israelites about the meal that will protect them from Egypt's final plague and prepare them to set forth on their journey to freedom. This became the Passover meal of the Jews, the precursor of the Eucharistic meal.

Today's passage from the Epistle to the Romans continues to deal with the characteristics of Christian living. We are to live in good relationships with all people, to respect the laws and authorities of human society, and above all to express love by mutual behavior based on God's law.

We gather as the People of God, having found in our relationship with God that he is our lover and our savior, not an angry or condemning judge. We find in our lives together as Church that we are not only the recipients of God's love and forgiveness but also sent into the world as the instruments of that love and forgiveness to all people.

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Inc. NY



Website: TrinityCranford.org

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Connect to Online Services and Meetings: us04web.zoom.us/j/595488321

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Trinity Episcopal Day School

"Where Children Grow in Faith, Confidence & Curiosity"

A Nurturing, Neighborhood School Community.

Warm, welcoming environment where every child is known, supported, and cared for.

Programs for Ages 2½ Through Transitional Kindergarten.

Accredited early childhood education designed to support every stage of development.

Holistic Academic Day School.

Professionally developed curriculum that encourages children to develop a lifelong love of learning.

Extended Care for Busy Families.

Flexible scheduling from 7 AM - 6 PM, including morning care, aftercare, and homework support.

Aftercare for Kindergarten Through 5th Grade.

A structured, supportive program with dedicated homework time and guidance - helping students complete their assignments before heading home, so evenings can be focused on family time.

Seamless Support for Cranford Families.

Bus service to local public schools and supervised drop-off and pick-up for peace of mind.

Faith-Based, Inclusive Environment.

A God-centered approach that welcomes children from all Faiths and nurtures character, kindness, and respect for others.

Experienced, Caring Educators.

Dedicated teachers who create a safe, enriching space for intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual growth.

Whole-Child Development.

An environment that fosters individual strengths, creativity, and confidence.

Engaging Summer Camp Program.

Fun-filled experiences, events, and activities that keep children learning and exploring year-round.