

# Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



"Christ as the Good Shepherd" – Cranach the Younger

## *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Holy Eucharist ~ Rite II ~ April 21, 2024 at 10 AM



The Reverend Andrew David Kruger - Presider & Preacher

Anthony J. Rafaniello - Director of Music & Organist

Casey Woodruff - Senior Warden & Thomas Kaercher - Junior Warden

*The Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Flowers are given for the Glory of God  
and in honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Stephanie & Jim Willix*

**Welcome**

Thomas Kaercher

**Prelude**

*Pastorale in D* – William Wolstenholm

*At the end of the prelude, the bells are rung and the People stand.*

**I. Gathering of God's People**

**Gathering Hymn**

Salzburg

Hymnal 174

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;  
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;  
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;  
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:  
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,  
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;  
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;  
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.  
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.  
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.  
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

**Easter Acclamation**

Book of Common Prayer 355

*Presider*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People*

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider Let us pray.

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

**Gloria**

William Mathias

Hymnal S 278

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-  
 might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,  
 on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;  
 5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the  
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of  
 God the Fa-ther. A - men.

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## II. Proclaiming and Receiving the Word of God

### First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

*Reader* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23

*Dominus, regit me*

Plainsong Psalter

*All are invited to sing the Antiphon and Psalm.*



I will dwell in the house of the LORD, for ev - er, hal - le - lu - jah.



TONE VIII.1

- 1 *The LORD* is my shépherd; \*  
I / shall not bé in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pástures \*  
and leads me be/side still wáters.
- 3 He revives my sóul \*  
and guides me along right pathways / for his Náme's sake.



4a Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall / fear no evil; \*

4b for you are with me;  
your rod and your / staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is / running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the / LORD for ever. [Ant.]

## Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

*Reader* A reading from the first letter of John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Proclaiming Chant

*Alleluia 7*

Taizé Community

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. Al-le -  
lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! (hum)  
*Last time*

*Cantor* I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and they know me.

## Holy Gospel

John 10:11-18

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### III. Responding to the Proclaimed Word

## Homily

Andrew Kruger

## Nicene Creed

Enriching Our Worship 53

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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, \*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

**Prayers of the People**

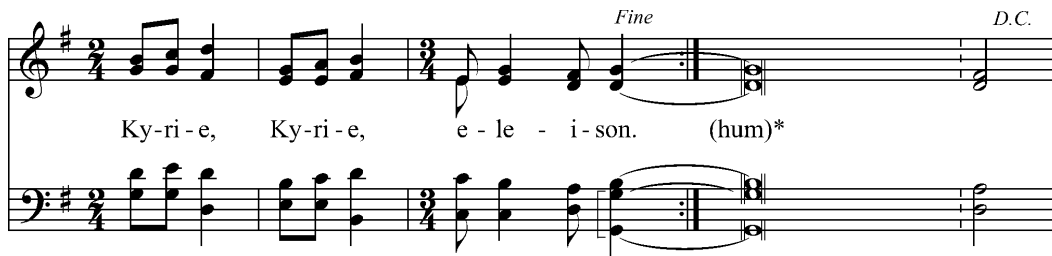
Common Worship

*The Presider says*

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority. Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.

*The Intercessor prays*

Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world.



Jesus Christ, King of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high, pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule.

***Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.***

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow.

***Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.***

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels, those who have died trusting your promises.

***Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.***

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service.

***Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.***

*The Intercessor remains at the lectern, then returns to their seat during the sharing of the Peace. The Presider prays*

Lord God, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your love: grant that, as he was raised from the dead so we may walk in newness of life and seek those things which are above. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The People greet one another in the Name of the Lord, then sit for the announcements.*

## **Announcements**

Andrew Kruger

### IV. Celebrating at the Lord's Table

## **Offertory Sentence**

1 Chronicles 29:11

*The Presider says*

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offering of bread and wine to the Holy Table.*



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the people.  
Another option is to give to Trinity online –  
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

## **Offertory Anthem**

“Alleluia! Christ is Risen!” – Michael Bedford  
Trinity Children's Choir

Alleluia! Christ is risen! See, the stone is rolled away!  
Alleluia! Christ is risen! Spread the news to all this day.  
Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He's alive, and we are free!  
Alleluia! Christ is risen! Tell the people, “Come, and see!”  
Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!

*The People stand. The ushers bring the collection plates and gifts for St. John's to the ministers.*

## **St. John's Offertory Prayer**

*Presider* Let us pray.

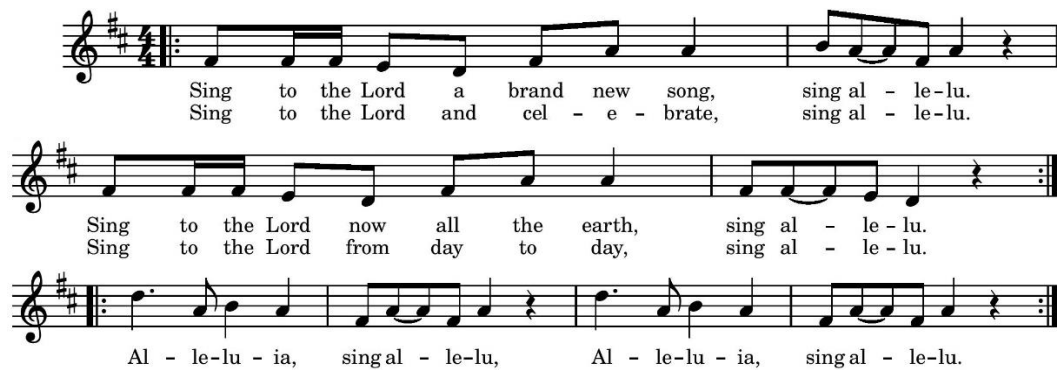
**Generous God, we present these gifts for St John's, a symbol of the work you have given us to do; use them, and use us, in the service of your world to the glory of your name. Amen.**



## Offertory Hymn

*Sing to the Lord a Brand New Song*

arr. Joe Ridenour



Sing to the Lord a brand new song, sing al - le-lu.  
Sing to the Lord and cel - e - brate, sing al - le-lu.

Sing to the Lord now all the earth, sing al - le - lu.  
Sing to the Lord from day to day, sing al - le - lu.

Al - le-lu - ia, sing al - le-lu, Al - le-lu - ia, sing al - le-lu.

## Eucharistic Prayer for Children

Common Worship

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Child* Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

*Parents* Listen, and we will hear.

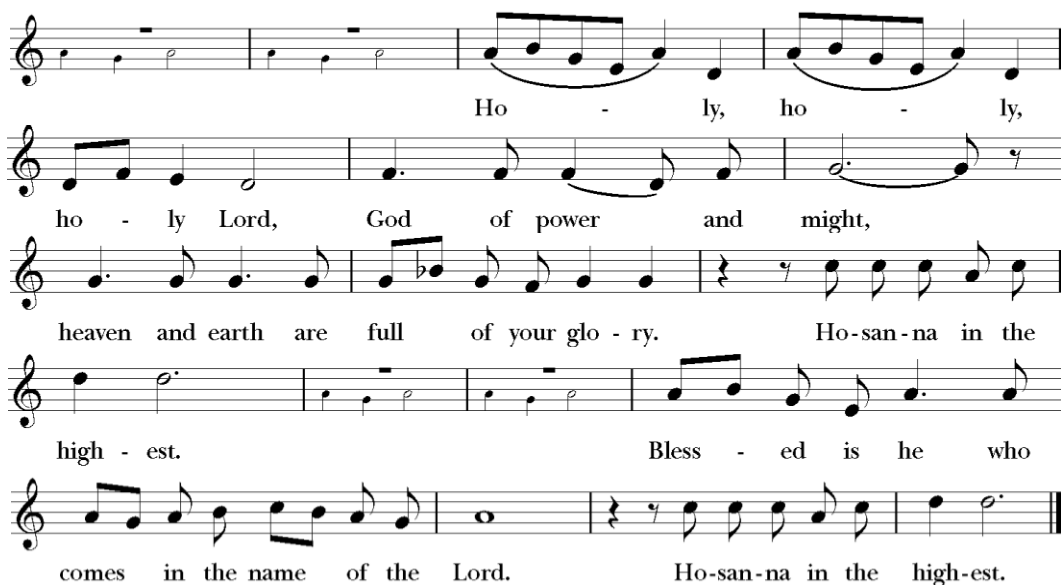
Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us happy times and things to celebrate.

In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

## Sanctus

*William Matthias*

Hymnal S 128



Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We thank you loving Father, because when we turned away you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and showed us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

*Child* Why do we share this bread and wine?

*Parents* Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Savior.

*Child* How do we follow Jesus Christ?

*Parents* Listen, and we will hear.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

## Great Amen

Mathias/Kruger



## Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

*Presider* And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.**

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy  
on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy  
on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

**Invitation**

BCP 364

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

The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. You may choose to receive only the host at this time. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. Gluten-free wafers are available by request to the priest.

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.

**First Communion Hymn**

Morestead

Hymnal 317

1 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;  
2 Too soon we rise; we go our sev - eral ways;  
3 Feast af - ter feast thus comes and pass - es by,  
this is the heaven - ly ta - ble spread for me;  
the feast, though not the love, is past and gone,  
yet, pass - ing, points to the glad feast a - bove,  
here let me feast, and feast - ing, still pro - long  
the Bread and Wine con - sumed: yet all our days  
giv - ing us fore - taste of the fes - tal joy,  
the brief, bright hour of fel - low - ship with thee.  
thou still art here with us— our Shield and Sun.  
the Lamb's great mar - riage feast of bliss and love.

**Second Communion Hymn**

*St Columba*

Hymnal 645



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness  
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed  
 \* 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 \* 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear  
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion  
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if  
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant  
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der  
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my  
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port  
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.  
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-les-tial feed-eth.  
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.  
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.  
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!  
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

**Choir Anthem**

*Surrexit Christus*

Taize Community

Ostinato Refrain



(hum) Sur-re-xit Chri-stus, al-le-lu-ia!



(hum) Can-ta-te Do-mi-no, al-le-lu-ia!

**Post Communion Prayer**

CW

*Presider* Let us pray.

*The People stand.*

**Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us, to lay down his life and rise again: Keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Blessing

CW

*The Presider blesses the people.*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*Salve festa dies*

Hymnal 175

*Refrain*

Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! blest day that art hal - lowed for -  
ev - er, day where - on Christ a - rose, break - ing the  
king - dom of death. *First time only* death.

5 God the cre - a - tor, the Lord, who rul - est the  
7 Spi - rit of life and of power, now flow in us,  
earth and the hea - vens, guard us from  
fount of our be - ing, light that dost

*Repeat Refrain*

harm with - out, cleanse us from e - vil with - in:  
light - en all, life that in all dost a - bide:

6 Je - sus the health of the world, en - light - en our  
8 Praise to the Giv - er of good! Thou Love who art  
minds, thou Re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -  
au - thor of con - cord, pour out thy balm on our

*Repeat Refrain*

preme, on - ly - be - got - ten of God:  
souls, or - der our ways in thy peace:

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

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

## Postlude

“Trumpet Voluntary in C” – John Stanley

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

## What you need to know today...

**Today is Sandwich Sunday** There are several ways to participate in this ministry (links to sign up are in the email blast). Contact Marion Nechuta (marionnechuta@yahoo.com or 908-451-4498) for more information.

**Intergenerational Eucharist** Today is the third Sunday of the month, so at this 10 AM service the younger baptized members of our parish remain in church rather than going to Sunday school and exercise their gifts by participating in various lay roles in the liturgy.

**Eucharistic Minister Training** Today after this 10 AM services for all current and aspirant LEM's.

**Fellowship Hour** In Sherlock Hall, immediately after each service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided.

**United Together** Today is the final day that Outreach is collecting for this organization which helps the people of Ukraine with humanitarian needs. The weekly email blast has the link to the list of items needed. Contact the parish office for more details.

**Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle** Both are individually available for personal attribution, to remember loved ones, to honor others, to celebrate lives. Anyone can make a request; there is no fee. Email the office by 4 PM Wednesday each week; multiple attributions are allowed. Altar flowers cost the parish \$75 per week, and are a line item in the church budget. Donations towards that are gratefully appreciated and may be made anonymously via the collection plate or through the office.

**TEDS Summer Camp** Registration is currently open for ages 4–13; for more information contact Nancy Ditzel (908-276-2881). The season runs from July 8 through August 16; Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM with weekly themes such as Science, Animal, Art, Sports and more. Several trips are planned including Turtle Back Zoo, Fire Me UP, the Thomas Edison Museum, walking trips to Dairy Queen, etc.

## What you need to know this week...

**Parish Office Hours** Office Manager Marion Nechuta is available Tuesday (12 noon–2:30 PM), Wednesday (1 PM–3:30 PM) and Thursday (12 noon–2:30 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.

**Trinity's Music Ministry** This Wednesday, April 24 there is rehearsal for Handbell Choir (6:45–7:45 PM) and the Adult Choir (8–9 PM) in the church. Contact Music Director Anthony Rafaniello (anthonyrafaniello@gmail.com).

**Women's Bible Study** Thursdays, 10 AM–11 AM online, except when there is a Fellowship Luncheon. Nancy Miller – 1988 magna cum laude graduate of the Theological School of Drew University – has been leading this dedicated group since 2000.

**Thursday Compline** This Thursday at 8 PM online.

**TEDS Clothing Drive** Saturday, April 27; clothing of all sizes, shoes (bagged separately), sheets (but not blankets), towels, and bicycles must be dropped off at TEDS that morning only. Please note: no toys, electronics or stuffed animals. For more information contact Nancy Ditzel. The generosity of the congregation is gratefully appreciated.

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

**New Parish Photo Directory** Jim Behnke will take photographs on the Sherlock Hall stage after both services on the Sundays of April 28, May 5 and May 19. The goal is to represent 100% of the congregation, so please attend at least one of those Sundays and complete the release form.

**Episcopal Church Women's Student Service Award** Applications are open to all High School Seniors who attend churches in the Diocese of New Jersey. Applications are due by Tuesday, April 30. The information is in the weekly email blast.

**Visiting Preacher** Sunday, May 5 at both services. The Rev. Susanna Cates, Canon for Formation & Vocations for the Diocese of New Jersey, will preach and then make a presentation during Fellowship Hour. Mother Susanna received her Master's Degree of Divinity from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in 2013 and has served as an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas, the Diocese of Newark, and now in the Diocese of New Jersey. Married to William Cates and a joyful "bonus parent" to her five stepchildren. Originally raised in the Jewish tradition, she embraces the diversity, openness to questions, and welcoming spirit of The Episcopal Church – and loves hearing about faith journeys.

**Ascension Day Worship Service** Thursday, May 9 at 7:30 PM.

**Baptism on Pentecost Sunday, May 19** Baptisms of Charlotte Grace Antus and Drew Joseph Ortiz during this service.

**Easter Hymn Festival** Sunday, May 19 at 4 PM in the church. Tickets go on sale today for a suggested donation of \$15. Each ticket includes a slip to request a hymn from the Hymnal 1982. These hymns will be pulled at random during the hymn festival. An entire hymn from the Hymnal 1982 can be sponsored at the cost of its hymn number. (Please choose only hymns from #174 onward, as this is an Easter Hymn Festival. Please email the church office at [trinitycranford@gmail.com](mailto:trinitycranford@gmail.com). These sponsored selections will be due by Sunday, May 5. This fundraiser benefits both Trinity Episcopal Church and the James Lenney Memorial Choral Scholarship, which is awarded to a Cranford High School senior each year. A light reception will follow. Contact Anthony Rafaniello with questions.

## Lectinary & Liturgy

This Sunday of Easter is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Each year we hear a part of Jesus' discourse on his relationship to us in the image of the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd loves his sheep so much that he lays down his life for them. We are called by him into his life, the life which he has given for us. Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles continues the story of the first days of the Church. Peter and the other Apostles are on trial before the rulers of the people because in spite of being commanded to speak no more of Jesus, they had continued to preach and to heal in his name. Today we hear portion of Peter's response.

The reading today from I John tells us that as God's children we are to reveal God's love by living in love with all other people. That love is to be more than a kind feeling. We cannot claim to have God's love if we do not care for the needs of our poor and neglected brothers and sisters. Our identity now comes from God and our lives are to reflect God's own nature and love. How we live reveals our relationship to God. Thus the description of the Church as the Body of Christ is not merely an analogy. It describes our life together as the embodiment of Christ's love and mercy toward all people. We are not only "the sheep of his pasture," but we are to shepherd all his people in his name.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. © 2007 Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing, NYC

† **Cover art** – "Christ as the Good Shepherd" by Lucas Cranach (1515-1586). At a dinner speech in 1533, Martin Luther remarked that "M. Lucas depicted Christ carrying the sheep out of the desert (*M. Lucas pingat Christum ovem e deserto humeris reportantem*)" – He was referring to Lucas Cranach the Elder, but by whom no such work is known. This is stylistically indebted to him; however the characteristic depiction of the winged serpent in the background indicates that it is undoubtedly the work of his son, commonly called "Cranach the Younger." –[Michaelis, *Exhibit Catalogue*, Berlin 1989; note artist's insignia top right, behind the lamb]

† **Gathering Hymn** – Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868). Music: melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. J.S. Bach. Hintze traveled widely as a youth, including trips to Sweden and Lithuania. In 1659 he settled in Berlin; he is known mainly for his editing of the later editions of Johann Crüger's *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, to which he contributed some sixty-five of his original tunes.

- † **Service Music** – William Mathias (1934-1992) –[©1976 Oxford University Press]. “Music was an ever-present force for my father. I was aware from a very early age that the creative process was something always present for him – even when he was doing something else – and that it was a force which he could turn in any desired direction or channel at a given time. Hence his ability to compose a wide variety of orchestral, choral, instrumental or chamber music, as well as music for the church and for young people.” –[daughter Rhiannon Mathias]
- † **Common Worship** – A family of volumes which, together with the BCP, make up the official liturgical resource of the Church of England. It represents the most recent stage of development of the Liturgical Movement within the Church.
- † **Collect of the Day** – In many of the ancient baptistries Jesus was depicted as the Good Shepherd, a theme which became associated with one of the Sundays in the Easter season. This new collect, drafted by the Rev. Dr. Massey H. Shepherd, Jr., draws out several aspects of the theme which runs through many of the lections for this day, especially John 10 and Ezekiel 34. –[*Notes on the American Prayer Book* by Marion Hatchett]
- † **Plainsong Psalter** – Plainsong dates from the earliest centuries of Christianity. It has one melody traditionally sung without musical accompaniment and based on the psalms. Editor James Litton is widely recognized as one of the leading American choral conductors, a member of the Standing Commission on Church Music who participated in the preparation and publication of the Hymnal 1982, directed the American Boychoir (1985-2001), and a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music (one of 7 Americans to receive this honor).
- † **Proclaiming Chant** – Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community. Tune: ©1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications.
- † **Gospel** – The Christian gospel, for Augustine, wasn’t just the answer to an intellectual question (though it was that); it was more like a shelter in a storm, a port for a wayward soul, nourishment for a prodigal who was hungering, whose own heart had become, he said, “a famished land.” Like someone had finally shown him his home country, even though he had never been there before.
- † **\* Nicene Creed** – This version is designed to contain “all the expansive language texts currently authorized.” It is almost identical to the version in the BCP. The omission of the words ‘and the Son’ (*filioque*) restores the text of the Creed to the original wording agreed upon at the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Constantinople (381 CE). The addition of that phrase was a later development implemented only in the Western Church and without the approval of a General Council.
- † **Prayers of the People** – Note that it is not the leader of those prayers who does the praying. That person – whether ordained or not – simply announces the theme, and all of us, the baptized royal priesthood, pray in the power of the Spirit to the Father.
- † **Offertory Anthem** – Dr. Michael Bedford (b. 1949), a full-time church musician since 1973, is organist/choirmaster emeritus of St. John’s Episcopal in Tulsa, OK; after retirement in 2015, he served as President of the American Guild of Organists from 2016 until 2022. “It has often been said that children and youth are the future of the Church. This is a true statement, but only if children and youth are the ‘present’ of the Church as well. If they are not taught to serve in leadership capacities in the worship and daily life of today’s Church, there will be no future. We need only to examine our own parishes to discover that the young people who continue to attend worship regularly are the same ones who are allowed to participate in leadership capacities. We must continually enable this to happen.” –[©2009 Choristers Guild]
- † **Offertory Hymn** – Words: based on Psalm 96. Music: arr. Joe Ridenour.
- † **First Communion Hymn** – Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889); “his hymns satisfy the fastidious by their instinctive good taste; they mirror the life of Christ in the soul, partially, perhaps, but with vivid accuracy; they win the heart by their tone of tender sympathy; they sing the truth of God in ringing notes; and although, when taken as a whole, they are not perfect; although, in reading them, we meet with feeble stanzas, halting rhythm, defective rhyme, meaningless iteration; yet a singularly large number have been stamped with approval, both in literary circles and by the Church. –[John Julian, *Dictionary of Hymnology* 1907] Music: © Sydney Watson (1903-1991).
- † **Second Communion Hymn** – Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. of Psalm 23. “His hymns have an undertone of plaintiveness, and leave a dreamy sadness upon the spirit of the singer. Poetical figures, far-fetched illustrations, and difficult compound words, he entirely eschewed. If a subject presented itself to his mind with striking contrasts of lights and shadows, he almost invariably sought shelter in the shadows.” –[John Julian, *Dictionary of Hymnology*, 1903] Music: Irish melody; its first appearance in a hymnal, and apparently its first known appearance in print, was in the *Irish Church Hymnal* (1864), where it was called a “Hymn of the Ancient Irish Church”.
- † **Communion Meditation** – Words: Daniel 3, Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994). –[©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications]
- † **Sending Hymn** – Words: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (540-600); one of the most prominent poets of his time, he filled a great social desire for Latin poetry and used it to promote political ideas he supported, and to pass on personal thoughts and communications. He was a master wordsmith and because of his promotion of the church, as well as the Roman tendencies of the Frankish royalty, he remained in favor with most of his acquaintances throughout his lifetime. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) composed this as a setting for the text; the title comes from the opening words of the text and was published in *The English Hymnal* of 1906. –[Words and music by permission of Oxford University Press]

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