

TRINITY CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF ASBURY PARK, NJ

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Holy Eucharist at ten o'clock

At Trinity, we strive to use expansive language in our liturgy to reflect our beliefs that God transcends and includes all genders and that all gender expressions reflect the beauty of God's creation. Sometimes, however, our liturgy and scripture readings use gendered language for God and humanity as part of the common spiritual heritage of Anglicanism and the Christian Church. In congregational responses, we invite you to use whatever pronouns and titles help you to see the divine in both God and humanity. As the scripture lessons are read, we invite you to consider that the writings contained in the Bible are contextual--reflecting particular times, places, and cultures--but that they can be understood in universal and expansive ways. God is love!

Hymn numbers refer to either the Hymnal 1982 or Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS), located in the pew racks.

Prelude

On a Theme of Orlando Gibbons (Op. 105.1) Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 – 1924)

Hymn 147 "Now let us all with one accord"

*All who can please stand
Bourbon*

Opening Acclamation

All who can please stand

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

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

Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

The Summary of the Law

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Confession and Absolution

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

All who can, please kneel

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

The celebrant pronounces absolution.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Remain kneeling
Archangelsky

Trisagion

The Trisagion is sung through three times, each time with increasing vigor

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
5
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Remain kneeling

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

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

Please be seated

The Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Genesis (12:1-4a)

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

*At the end of the lesson, the reader says, The Word of the Lord
All Reply, Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 121

Said in Unison

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come? | 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night. |
| 2 My help comes from God,
the maker of heaven and earth. | 7 God shall preserve you from all evil;
it is the One who shall keep you safe. |
| 3 God will not let your foot be moved and the
One who watches over you will not fall
asleep. | 8 God shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, from this time forth for
evermore. |
| 4 Behold, the One who keeps watch over
Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep; | |
| 5 The Holy One watches over you;
and is your shade at your right hand, | |

The Lesson: A Reading from the Letter to the Romans (4:1-5, 13-17)

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

ence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Reader says, The Word of the Lord.
All Reply, Thanks be to God

Hymn 440 "Blessed Jesus, at thy word"

Verses 1-2 are sung before the Gospel and verse 3 is sung after.

All who can, please stand
Liebster Jesu

The Holy Gospel John (3:1-17)

All who can please stand

At the Announcement, all say **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Reader says, The Gospel of the Lord.
All Reply, Praise to you, Lord Christ

Verse 3 will now be sung.

Sermon

The Rev. Geoff Curtiss

Nicene Creed

All who can please 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 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 [and the Son],
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.

The Peace

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Please be seated

Congregational Celebrations and Thanksgivings

The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of cre - a - tion
joins us in praise; lift-ing our voic - es, lift-ing our hearts
to the glo-ry of God for - ev - er!

The Offering

Choral Anthem *God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
That whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
But that the world through Him might be saved.

Celebrant

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker and of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father (or Mother/Parent), **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.**

At the Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Invitation

At the Communion



The sacrament of Holy Communion is a profound and central part of our worship. In it we receive God's promise to set aside all that separates us; we strengthen our union with Christ and one another; and we experience a foretaste of the time when all creation will share the feast God has prepared for us. All who seek a deeper relationship with God in Jesus Christ are invited to join us at the Lord's Table.

Follow the usher's direction to communion. Receive the bread in open palm. Wine is available in the silver chalice, and non-alcoholic grape juice in the wooden cup. You may receive the wine by taking a sip or touching your wafer to the wine. For the grape juice, please only touch the wafer to the juice. If you would like a blessing in lieu of communion, indicate so by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask the clergy for one if desired. Please let the usher know if you need the Celebrant to come to your pew to administer communion.



During communion, those who would like someone to pray with them for themselves or someone else are invited to come to one of our prayer stations for individual prayer. Prayer stations are located at the back of the church (near the entrance doors) where a member of the Trinity Prayer Team will be sitting in a chair, ready to say a prayer with you. See insert for more information.

Hymn 691 "My faith looks up to thee"

Olivet

[Blessing of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant Bless you for your ministry and bless those to whom you bring these holy gifts, that they may be united with this community in the holy sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

People **Though we are many, we are all one body because we share in the one bread.]**

Post Communion Prayer

All who can please stand

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Celebrant

May Christ who calls you to take up your cross, give you strength to bear your own and one another's burdens, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 473 "Lift High the Cross"

Crucifer

Dismissal *People's Response:* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Voluntary XIII*

William Croft (1678 – 1727)

Special thanks to our guest organist Dr. James Balmer for sharing his beautiful music with us today while Dr. Deborah King is away!

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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