

# TRINITY CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF ASBURY PARK, NJ

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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), copies of which are in the pew racks.*

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**Prelude** *Lento* (Op. 105 Nr. 3)

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 – 1924)

**Introit** *In my Father's House*

John Ness Beck

In my Father's house are many mansions.  
If it were not so I would have told you.  
I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go,  
I will come again to receive you;  
That where I am, ye may be also.

**Hymn 518** "Christ is made the sure foundation"

*All who can, please stand  
Westminster Abbey*

## Opening Acclamation

*All who can please stand*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**  
*Celebrant* There is one Body and one Spirit;  
*People* **There is one hope in God's call to us;**  
*Celebrant* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
*People* **One God and Father of all.**

## The Collect for Purity

*Said in unison*

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.**

## Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## The First Lesson: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (7:55-60)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

**Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

James Turle

*Sung by the choir*

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.  
2 Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.  
3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.  
5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.  
15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.  
16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me."

**The Second Lesson:** A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (2:2-10)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*The Reader says, The Word of the Lord.*

*All Reply, Thanks be to God*

*All who can, please stand*

*The Call*

**Hymn 487 “Come my Way, my Truth, my Life”**

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

## **The Holy Gospel John (14:1-14)**

*All who can please stand*

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

*The Reader says, The Gospel of the Lord.*

*All Reply, Praise to you, Lord Christ*

*Verse 3 of the hymn will now be sung.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Chase Danford

## Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

*The Celebrant says*

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*Parents and Godparents*

I present Declan Craig Keegan to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant*

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents* I will, with God's help.

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children:*

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer* I do.

*After the baptismal vows are made, the Celebrant then asks the congregation*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

*People* **We will.**

*The Celebrant then says* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

*All who can please stand*

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **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.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **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.**

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

## Prayers for the Candidates

*The Celebrant says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*Leader* Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Open his heart to your grace and truth.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Send him into the world in witness to your love.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant says*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn "Shall We Gather at the River"

1. Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, Where bright an-gel feet have trod; \_\_\_

1. With its crys-tal tide for-ev-er Flow-ing by the throne of \_\_\_ God?

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, The beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful \_\_\_ riv-er;

Gath-er with the saints \_\_\_ at the riv-er That flows by the throne of \_\_\_ God.

## Thanksgiving over the Water

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

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

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

*Celebrant* We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Baptism

*Celebrant*

Declan, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying*

Declan, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

*When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Priest prays over them, saying*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant says,* Let us welcome the newly baptized.  
*Celebrant and People* **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in God's eternal priesthood.**

**The Peace**

*Greet one another in the name of Christ*

*Celebrant* 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** *Open My Eyes*

K Lee Scott

Open my eyes and I shall see; incline my heart and I shall desire;  
 Order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of your commandments.

O God, be my only Lord, and beside you let there be none else with you.  
 Teach me to worship you and serve you in all my undertakings  
 With truth of spirit, honor of body, blessing of mouth both in public and private.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*All who can, please stand*

*Eucharistic Prayer 2, Enriching Our Worship*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

William Mathias

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.

*The Celebrant proceeds* Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

*Celebrant and People* **Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.**

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

*Celebrant and People* **In the fullness of time bring us, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray, 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.**

## Fraction Anthem

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

## 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 304 "I come with joy to meet my Lord"**

*Land of Rest*

### [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 the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, who creates, redeems, and sanctifies, be among you, and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**Hymn** 455 "O Love of God, how strong and true"

*Dunedin*

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

**Postlude** *March & Trumpet Tune* (ZT 698, 687)

Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)

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Special thanks to James Balmer for providing  
the prelude and postlude today!

### **Trinity Church Vision Statement**

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God...For if we love one another, God abides in us, and God’s love will be perfected in us.” (1 John 4:7, 12)

Love is at the very core of Trinity Church. Through our faith and ministry, we seek to share Jesus Christ’s unconditional, revolutionary love for all of God’s creation and people. We demonstrate love in action by respecting the dignity of all, practicing radical hospitality, standing in solidarity with the marginalized, advocating for peace and justice, dismantling structural racism and every system of oppression, embracing inclusivity, maintaining our sacred space as a spiritual and physical sanctuary, and pursuing ecological sustainability. Strengthened by joyful worship, prayer, lifelong spiritual formation, stewardship of resources, pastoral care, and fellowship, we commit to follow Jesus in the Way of Love.

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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