



Trinity Topics

February 2021

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“...Always seek to do good to one another and to all.

***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”—1 Thessalonians 5:15b-18***

Though we are grateful that, with the arrival of a vaccine, we can finally see the light at the end of the dark tunnel for this pandemic, it seems that we will have to observe social distancing for another Lent and Easter. This Lent will therefore be a good time to remember that Christian life happens mostly outside the walls of a church. I don't mean to minimize the importance of the worship of the Lord on Sunday morning. I believe it transforms our souls and our whole week through Word and Sacrament. I long for the day when we can all gather again for worship without fear of spreading COVID-19. That day is coming. I also hope we all know that Christian worship happens in our homes and in our hearts. The Gospel is proclaimed at work and school in how we live our day to day lives. This will not change when the pandemic ends. Public worship, for all its importance, will always be incomplete without conscious dedication to personal holiness and a relationship with Jesus.

Personal holiness and a relationship with Jesus don't just happen all on their own. I have often known people to say they are “very spiritual” or the like, but that is not the same thing as Christian sanctity. Just like our relationships with our spouses, friends, and families, our relationship with Jesus takes some effort. Just like breaking a bad habit like smoking or developing a new positive habit like exercise takes effort, personal holiness takes discipline. There is no resting place for a Christian in this world where we might rest in the knowledge that we are saints. No one would say to a person he loves, “I love you, but I think I know enough about you already!” Love is ever changing and growing. Love ever wants to know another person more and more because every person has an infinitely deep heart. Whether we are saints or sinners, sanctity is a matter of growing more and more in the love of Jesus. No matter what good we do in our lives, this love of Jesus can push us to more and more, and to find joy in this service.

As we enter the season of Lent, let us prepare for the blessed vision of Easter by examining whether our home and our lives reflect the grace the Lord has given us. Do we pray? Do we read the Bible? Do we go looking for others who are lonely or suffering so that we can help them? Resolve to pray to Jesus every day. Set aside time for it. This time doesn't need to be anything else than thanking God for the blessings of the day, bringing what you need to Him, and leaving space for him to speak to you. Read the Bible every day, even if it's just a few verses—Jesus is waiting there to be found so that he can offer you strength and love. This Lent, resolve to be the one who shows the world that Jesus is alive by performing additional acts of charity and generosity. Call other members of the parish just to see how they are doing. Give a dollar to the beggar at the entrance of the parking lot.

Though I have called this Lenten work “discipline,” the season of Lent doesn't need to be gloomy. It's true that sorrow for our sins is part of Lent, but Lent is even more an invitation to the Easter joy of the Gospel of Jesus. Personal holiness and a relationship with Jesus can be hard, but it is also comforting and joyful. This Lent is the time to make the joy of the Gospel part of our personal lives.

Father Zachary Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXIV

Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne amidst a complete breakdown of religious uniformity. Since her legitimacy rested on the validity of her mother's Protestant marriage, she really had no choice in the matter of her faith (though she does seem to have sincerely believed Protestant doctrines). Extreme Catholics, called Recusants, refused to have anything to do with her and plotted her downfall with open encouragement from the Pope. So called "Church Catholics" continued participating in the Church of England while demanding a return to the old ways. Moderate Protestants felt the Reformation had gone far enough already and were happy to keep the limited reforms passed during King Edward's short reign. Extreme Protestants, led by Marian Exiles returning to the motherland, demanded purification of any latent Catholicism from the English Church. Elizabeth herself, along with her closest advisors, were moderate Protestants, with a marked Calvinist bent. Bishops, vestments, and organ music appealed to Elizabeth's sense of religious grandeur. Small ritual symbols such as bowing at the name of Jesus or exchanging wedding rings, much hated by extreme Protestants, were maintained. A more moderate Book of Common Prayer was introduced that was more open to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. It also maintained the sign of the Cross at baptism and asserted the belief that the sacrament conferred forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Perhaps realizing that doctrinal uniformity would be impossible without a literal inquisition, Elizabeth decreed that she was not going to make "windows into men's souls." People could be as Lutheran, Reformed, or Catholic as they liked so long as they worshipped in the Church of England using the Book of Common Prayer. History calls it the "Elizabethan Settlement." It would prove to be one of the foundational moments of Anglican identity.

This column is the twenty-fourth in the monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

The Readings for the Sundays in February

	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
February 7	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 14	2 Kings 2:1-12	50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	103	2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 21	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
February 28	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	22:22-30	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

Morning Prayer Resuming

We will resume the practice of reciting the Daily Office in the Church Tuesday through Friday at 10 AM, during Lent. All are welcome to attend. Social distancing protocols will be required.

Morning Prayer is a good choice for anyone considering a new Lenten discipline.

News & Announcements

New Bible Study Opportunity

Fr. Zach is considering starting an afternoon Bible study via Zoom. This study will focus on the Old Testament. Like the evening Bible study, it will occur twice a month. The day of the week is to be determined. Contact Fr. Zach via the parish office or email if you are interested. Contact: brooksz@gmail.com

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday services will be offered as usual this year at 10 am and 6 pm. The evening service will include music and be broadcast live via Facebook. The imposition of ashes will be slightly different this year to as a precaution. When you kneel at the rail to receive ashes, bow your head so the ashes can be sprinkled on top of your head rather than imposed on your forehead. This is actually the more venerable practice in most of Europe!

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church delivered Doorbell Dinners the week of January 18-22. K-Lou Ashmore organized it and thanks the following who helped:

Kip & K-Lou Ashmore, John Clancy, Bill & Gayle Clark, Forrest & Helen Keaton, Jo Ann Nelson, Dana Ryan, Don & Alice Tracey, Mary Watts, and Ryan Worrall.

We will deliver Doorbell Dinners again in May.

Forward Day by Day

The February / March / April edition of *Forward Day by Day* is now available. If you would like us to mail you one, call the Parish Office.

Blanket Sunday for Church World Service is always during the cold winter months. Since we didn't have a specific day to have an ingathering, monetary donations can still be sent to the parish office during February.



****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Bible Study

via Zoom

2nd & 4th Tuesdays

7:00 pm

We are reading the
Gospel of St. Matthew.

Contact Fr. Zach for more information,
and he will send you
an invitation to the Zoom meeting.



Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, February 16
7:00 pm

Blanket Sunday

Donations for Church World Service
still being accepted.
Make your check to Trinity Church
and note Blanket Sunday.

**SUNDAYS IN
FEBRUARY 2021**

*The Sunday 10 o'clock service with limited
attendance is our only service.
It is also live streamed on Facebook.
Attendees must follow the Reopening Guidelines.*

February 7:

The 5th Sunday after The Epiphany

February 14:

The Last Sunday after The Epiphany

February 21:

The First Sunday in Lent

February 28:

The Last Sunday in Lent

HOLY DAYS

Tuesday, February 2:

**The Presentation of our Lord
in the Temple**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 17:

ASH WEDNESDAY

10:00 am = Liturgy of Ashes
& Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm = Liturgy of Ashes
& Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 24:

St. Matthias

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

***Morning Prayer will be said
during Lent at 10 o'clock
on Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, and Friday.***