



Trinity Topics

March 2021

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***“Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.” Psalm 86:11***

One oft-neglected part of worship is preparation for worship. We have a chance before the service to say a short prayer to clear our minds and ready our hearts to hear what God has to say to us in the liturgy. Christian theologians call this state of readiness for worship “singleness of heart” or an “undivided heart.” We have all had those mornings when our minds are elsewhere. We are distracted by worldly things like chores, work, or the football game, when we should have our minds on God and the world to come. I am far from blameless in this myself. If I am stumbling on words more than usual or forget part of the service, odds are I neglected to say prayers before the service to clear my mind.

This preparation for worship is built into the service itself. The church is, ideally, quiet as we arrive. This gives us time to meditate and pray to receive God’s Spirit. This prayer may be a moment of silent reflection on God’s love for us, or it may be a formal prayer such as Prayer 64 on page 833 of the *Book of Common Prayer* (a prayer for ‘steadfast thoughts and kindled affections’ worthy of the worship of the Lord). We begin with an organ prelude to inspire us. The choir and altar party gather for prayers before we enter the church. The first prayer in the liturgy itself is usually the venerable “Collect for Purity,” which asks God to cleanse our hearts of sins and distractions so we can be inspired to love and worship him through Christ our Lord.

Hopefully, our whole Sunday is built around this sense of purification, a day when we set aside worldly distraction and for rest and gratitude to God. Just as the church is a sacred space, let Sunday be a sacred time. We have six whole days to labor; let Sunday be a day of rest and worship. The Lord’s Day is getting more difficult to observe as our society secularizes, and the Lord’s Day becomes just another work day, so it will take conscious effort to build our schedules around it. Along with rest and attendance at worship (whether in person or virtually), individuals and families should plan extra acts of devotion such as scripture reading or prayers. Families with children can read the Sunday School devotionals together, while others can read *Forward Day by Day* or the Lenten devotionals together.

The season of Lent is part of this quest for singleness of heart, not only on Sunday but in our whole lives. There is, to be sure, an aspect of sorrow for our sins in Lent. We have fallen away, we have hurt others, we have lost ourselves, and Lent is a wakeup call about all the things we are missing. However, Lent is not only about sorrow for our sins, Lent is an invitation to the joy of Easter. It is the assurance that it is not too late to start living the resurrection life that God has given to us in the life of Jesus. Before we get there, we need a time to prepare ourselves. Just like we need to take a moment of silence before worship to put aside the burdens and distractions of life, we need this season to set aside the anxiety and stress of day-to-day life. No less do we need to give up the terrible burden of guilt that we all carry around for those times that we know, deep down inside, that we were not all we should have been.

Our whole lives, indeed, reflect this pattern of anticipation and becoming in repeating layers. Our lives are preparation for the coming Kingdom of God, where we hopefully come to set aside our sinful passions and devote all our hearts, minds, and souls to the love of God in Jesus. It is reflected again in the liturgical seasons of Lenten preparation. It is reflected yet again in our week as we prepare church and rest on the Lord’s Day. Finally, it is reflected in the act of worship itself as we pray to be ready for worship. Do not neglect this last part—if we are distracted and anxious for one hour in the first part of the week, who knows what we are missing in the rest of life?

Father Zachary Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXV

One of the first tasks in Queen Elizabeth’s religious settlement was rebuilding the Church’s religious hierarchy. She was spared a much larger leadership fight by the timely (and natural) deaths of seven bishops in the months surrounding her ascent to the throne. All but two bishops refused to forsake the Catholic faith. It must be admitting neither of these bishops were well regarded by either Catholic or Protestants. Bishop Anthony Kitchin of Llandalf, was widely regarded in his own day as being mainly in it (so the speak) for the paycheck. In the uncharitable words of historian Eamon Duffy, Kitchin “would doubtless have become a Hindu if required, provided he was allowed to hold on to the See of Llandaff.” Bishop Thomas Stanley of Sodor and Man (as well as Canon of Durham Cathedral, Rector of Winwick, Rector of North Meols, and Governor of the Isle of Man) had a habit of collecting posts, paying lower clergy a pittance to actually do the work, and pocketing the rest of the posts’ stipends to fund a scandalously extravagant lifestyle. Elizabeth leaned on returning Marian Exiles and other Calvinists to restore principles to her Church, who supplied a goodly pool of well-educated and well-regarded leaders. This would give the Church of England a strongly Calvinist bent for a century, but also create tensions with holdover Catholic elements such as bishops, vestments, and crucifixes. This tension between Reformed and Catholic theology might swing one way or the other over time and place, but it remains in Anglicanism to this day.

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

The Readings for the Sundays in March

	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
March 7	Exodus 20:1-17	19	I Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
March 14	Numbers 21:4-9	107:1-3,17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
March 21	Jeremiah 31:31-34	51:1-13	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
March 28	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15 – 15:47

Bishop Search Surveys Coming Soon

Within the next couple of weeks the diocese will publish a survey what will be used in the process of selecting and calling the next bishop. It is essential that as many members of Trinity Church as possible make their voice heard in this process by filling in this survey. It will be possible to take the survey either by paper or electronically, though in this modern age all are strongly encouraged to make use of the electronic method. For more information contact Fr. Zach either at the parish office or by email: brooksz@gmail.com

In-person attendance

We thank God for the arrival of a coronavirus vaccine. In-person worship is welcome at all services with continued observance of pandemic protocol. We will celebrate a full Holy Week Schedule beginning with gathering in the churchyard for the Palm Sunday procession.

Who's That Saint?

Our liturgical calendar lists David of Wales on March 1.

David, Bishop of Menevia, Wales, c. 544

Despite the overwhelming victory of the pagan Angles, Saxons, and Jutes in the fifth century, one part of Britain continued in the ways of Christianity—Wales, the land west of the Wye River. In this last stronghold of the old Britons, the faith sprung from Glastonbury continued to flourish. To the family of one Sanctus in Menevia there was born a son David (“the beloved”). Little is known of his early life, but while fairly young he founded a monastery, near Menevia and became its abbot. He was later elected bishop.

His strongest desire was to study and meditate in the quiet of his monastery, but he was virtually dragged to an assembly of bishops called to combat the heresy of Pelagianism. Once there, David proved to be so eloquent and learned that Archbishop Dubricius chose him as his own successor as Primate of Wales. In time, David founded eleven other monasteries in Wales, and made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. One of his nicknames, “the Waterman,” may indicate that he allowed the monks in his care to drink only water at meals instead of the customary wine or mead. A scholar, a competent administrator, and a man of moderation, David filled the offices he held with distinction. He became a leader and guardian of the Christian faith in Wales. Eventually he moved the center of episcopal government to Menevia, which is still an episcopal city, now called Ty-Dewi (House of David).

He is revered and loved to this day as patron of Wales, foremost Christian priest, and courageous leader. **(He is depicted on the right in our sanctuary window.)**

Almighty God, who didst call thy servant David to be a faithful and wise steward of thy mysteries for the people of Wales: Mercifully grant that, following his purity of life and zeal for the Gospel of Christ, we may with him receive our heavenly reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

News & Announcements

Bible Study

Contact: brooksz@gmail.com

Vestry

The Vestry has been busy compiling a list of issues to address in the coming year.

- They have authorized some necessary roof and gutter work above the Parish Hall to be completed in the spring.
- They have also authorized the renovation of the basement area, especially where Church School meets. Hopefully by fall there should be fresh paint and carpet to welcome everyone back.

Other needed areas are being discussed.

Congratulations!

Nolan Tighe, son of Judy, made Captain rank in early December and now works at Ft. Meade as an Army Counter-Intelligence Officer

****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.

Daylight saving time 2021 in Illinois
will begin at 2:00 AM on
Sunday, March 14



Spring Forward!

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, March 16
7:00 pm



The Parish Office is accepting
donations for the Easter flowers.
Please send your check by **March 25**,
so that we can complete the order.

**SUNDAYS IN
MARCH 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.*

March 7:
The Third Sunday in Lent

March 14:
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 21:
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 28:
Palm Sunday:
The Sunday of the Passion

HOLY DAYS

Friday, March 19:
St. Joseph
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, March 25:
**The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus
Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

*Morning Prayer is said
at 10 o'clock
on Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, and Friday.*