



Trinity Topics

April 2021

Phone = (217) 245-5901

info@trinitychurchjax.org

Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org



**“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think...
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.” *Ephesian 3:20-21***

Easter greetings from Trinity Church! In Holy Week and Easter, we reach the culmination of the Christian year and the Gospel story. In becoming a human being, in living for us, and in dying for us, God the Son has entered all parts of human life. Therefore, all parts of our lives can be a place of redemption if we choose, in those moments, to have faith in Him. As Good Friday shows us, even in death we can possibly know God’s love. The darkness and mourning of Holy Saturday can possibly become the joyful resurrection life of Easter to those who believe that with God, all things are possible. That resurrection life that we receive on Easter Day is not only something that happened two thousand years ago in Jerusalem, and it is not only something that is promised in the age to come. We can have the resurrection life right now (a life free for faith, hope, and charity) if we believe in Him.

Because our diocese is currently in the process of calling its next bishop, I think it is important to use this Easter newsletter to discuss what bishops are. We are a democratic Church. The Episcopal Church teaches that God is speaking in all our lives, so you will have your own say in this process. I hope we can make an informed contribution to this dialogue. Our next bishop will have a big influence on our parish life and the future of the diocese.

Bishops are a visible connection between Trinity Church and Jesus. This connection comes in the form of his duty to safeguard the doctrines and worship of the Christian tradition. It is also a physical connection. When our next bishop is ordained, a bishop will perform the ceremony of “laying on hands.” The bishop will put his hands on the new bishop’s head and declare him a bishop. A bishop can do this because another bishop laid hands on him, and another bishop laid hands on him, all the way back to Jesus laying hands on the apostles. Our bishop will have a physical connection to Jesus Himself.

A bishop also serves as a connection between Trinity Church and the wider Episcopal Church. Our life at Trinity Church is connected to an institution that works throughout the whole world. He connects us with the other parishes of our region, and he stands for us at gatherings of the national Church and of the wider Anglican Communion. Because of these connections, the bishop is, far more than a parish priest, the main clergy person of a diocese. Saint Ignatius wrote that “Wherever the bishop is... there is the catholic Church.”

The Bible demands a high standard of bishops (which are called “overseers” in the New Testament). “The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.” (*1 Timothy 3:1-7*)

I suppose that considerably narrows the field! Please pray on these matters and fill out a survey for the bishop search. Directions for taking this survey follow on page 3 of this newsletter. In late April there will be listening sessions, which will be an opportunity for you to speak your mind about where our diocese has been and where you think it should go. Be sure your voice is heard in this process.

Fr. Zach Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXVI

Queen Elizabeth I reimposed the *Book of Common Prayer* in 1559, with an effort to balance the demands of the more extreme Protestants which she relied on to maintain power with the more conservative ideas of herself and most of her subjects. Like Elizabeth herself, her prayer book was solidly Protestant, but without the anti-Catholic polemic of the 1552 prayer book. Kneeling was mandated for the Eucharist (much to the horror of extreme Protestants), while the previous warning that the Eucharist was only a symbol was removed. The Catholic words for receiving the Eucharist, “The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ that was given for you,” were combined with the Protestant words “Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your heart by faith, with thanksgiving.” A Lutheran or Catholic might continue believing the Eucharist was the Body and Blood of Jesus while the service spoke mainly of the ceremony being a memorial.

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

Holy Week and Easter Services:

Holy Week is the climax of the Christian year, culminating in the Paschal Triduum and Easter Sunday.

- Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** on March 28. The 10 o'clock service on Palm Sunday will begin in the churchyard for the Procession of the Palms.
- The Paschal Triduum is one long, three-day service that begins on **Maundy Thursday**, April 1, at 7 pm. The service will conclude with a watch at the Altar of Repose until midnight.
- **Good Friday** on April 2, will be celebrated at 7 pm with the traditional “Veneration of the Cross” and the recitation of the Solemn Reproaches.
- **Holy Saturday**, on April 3, at noon, will be a simple, meditative service of prayer as we prepare for the Vigil.
- Finally, the **Great Vigil of Easter**, celebrating Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, will be celebrated on April 3, at 7:30 pm. We will host our friends from St. Luke’s, Springfield again this year. This solemn and beautiful service will include the lighting of the New Fire, the reading of the Prophecies, and Renewal of our Baptismal Vows.
- Of course, we will gather on April 4, at 10 am for a joyous Festal Eucharist for **Easter Day**.
- The Paschal Triduum ends at sunset on Easter Day.
- Please make time to attend these services and consider inviting friends and neighbors to experience our worship.

Synod Delegates and Lay Leaders Needed

Your parish needs you! Trinity Church needs two delegates to Synod to represent our parish. Anyone that is interested in lay leadership in our parish and the Diocese of Springfield should consider volunteering for this role. It is especially important for our parish to be represented in this year’s Synod because we will be selecting a new bishop. Synod this year will begin in the afternoon of **Friday, October 15** and end at noon the following day, **October 16**. This is not the only opportunity for lay leadership in our diocese. Trinity Church Alum Charlie Rice has put out the call for leaders to serve on the diocesan finance committee. Contact Fr. Zach for more information. brooks@trinitychurch.org

News & Announcements

The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield wants your input regarding the upcoming Bishop of Springfield search.

[Instructions for completing the survey online.](#)

1. Visit **go.uis.edu/dos2021**. The survey is accessible through desktop, tablet, or mobile phone. Multiple people may complete the survey from the same device, though we ask each individual to complete the survey only once.
2. Once you access the website you will begin with the welcome page, with a button on the bottom right for beginning the survey.
3. Answer each question that you feel comfortable answering. You may leave answers blank. You will be able to move forward in the survey by clicking the button on the bottom right labeled “click here to go to the next page.”
4. At the end of the survey click at the bottom right a button that says “click here to complete the survey.” You have now finished the survey. Thank you for your input!

**Paper copies of this survey are available in the Parish Office.
Please call if you would like one, and we will send it to you.**

Are We Open? Are We Closed?

All services are open, but we adhere to all reopening guidelines. Face masks are required, and attendees must maintain safe distances. We have taped off pews, leaving ten of them open.

Now that many members have been vaccinated, some may want to consider attending services in person; however, caution is recommended. We prefer having healthy members over having a filled church!

We will continue to livestream the Sunday service on Facebook, and we will continue to email the worship booklets, so that members can feel connected.

Special Offerings

The Ash Wednesday offering was \$190. Please remember that all of the special offerings go to the Outreach programs of Trinity Church. There will also be special offerings received on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday.

Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches

JACC will present an online Good Friday service at noon, on Friday, April 2. It can be viewed on their Facebook page (facebook.com/jacksonvilleAreaCC) or on the Faith Lutheran Church YouTube Channel. The video will be available for viewing any time after the premier.

Looking Back

As we prepare the areas in the basement for renovation, we find interesting materials. One folder that is of particular interest contained the program for the children’s Easter Pageant in 1968. Besides reading the names from the past, it listed the backdrop painted by Dorothy Frank. We still have that backdrop! It will be displayed in the hallway on Easter. We will also have a copy of the program with it.

****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.



The Diocese of Springfield
needs your
Bishop Search Survey
by **March 31.**

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, April 20

7:00 pm

SERVICES IN APRIL 2021

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy for Maundy Thursday

Good Friday, April 2

7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy for Good Friday

Holy Saturday, April 3

Easter Eve

12 noon - Proper Liturgy for Holy Saturday

7:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 4

EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 11

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 18

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 25

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Monday, April 26

St. Mark

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist



*Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.*