



# Trinity Topics

**March 2024**

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**“Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.  
Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.”**

—*Psalm 111:1-2*

The Psalms have been the prayer of the Church for two thousand years. A close reading of the Psalms reveals a recurring narrative pattern. The Psalmist finds himself in dire straits. Sometimes the crisis is physical infirmity or financial distress. Sometimes the Psalmist is the target of mocking or social ostracism. The Psalms contain times of loneliness and disaster. Mankind has faced the same problems for millennia. Sometimes the Psalmist admits that his crisis is the just consequence of his own foolish decisions, though just as often, the Psalmist maintains his innocence before circumstances that are beyond his control. In the depths of his misery, however, the Psalmist recalls the story of God. He is certain that God hears the cry of the needy and knows that God has acted mightily in the past to save. The Psalmist is certain that God’s work is not only in the past and that God will act to save him in his own day. So, the Psalmist strikes something of a deal with God. He doesn’t presume to be in any position to bargain with God, but rather he wants to give something in return for God’s loving kindness. “If you grant my prayer, O Lord,” the Psalmist says, “I will tell everyone what you did so the whole world can know you are the God who hears prayers!”

Christians meditate on the psalms because this is the same pattern of Christian life. We know God is good because those who have gone before us have testified to God’s work in their lives. Some of this testimony has been recorded in the Bible, and most of us became Christians because of the faith given to us by our family or friends. We attend church to hear the Word of God preached to be continually renewed in this story, because the anxieties and crises of life can make us lose sight of this story. Inspired by God’s works in the past, we are reminded to pray in our own day. We are certain this work is going on among us today because God has not changed since the days he walked among us performing miracles in Israel so long ago. When we discern these miracles and mighty acts that God is performing in our own lives, we have a duty to proclaim what God has done for us so that the story of the Bible can go on and continue to inspire the world to have faith.

This is our mission at Trinity Church, both as individuals and as a community: to hear the story of God, to pray to God, and to proclaim (through word and deed) God’s works to a world that truly needs to hear that God does care for them. People today put their faith in many things that are not worth their faith, but how are they to know to put their trust in God if his own Church does not tell them? You are called to proclaim God’s works, and you must read the Bible to find the way that God has prepared just for you to do it. Lent is a good time to renew our commitment to this mission, and this can begin with careful, daily reading of the Psalms. In reading the Psalms we carry on a story that has been going on since the earliest days of the Bible.

*Father Zachary Brooks +*

### *A Course in Anglican History: Part LX*

Until the modern era, every Anglican church prominently featured large boards lavishly painted with the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. They originated with Queen Elizabeth I, who in 1561 ordered that "God's Precepts" be displayed on the wall behind the Communion table in every church. They took the place previously occupied by images of the Virgin Mary, the saints, and the crucifixion, a firm declaration that the Protestant Word had replaced Catholic iconography. This practice was carried over to the American colonies, and these boards are still found in many churches constructed in the colonial era. They did not represent everything Christianity had to say, but they did represent "the basics" that even the Common Man could understand. All people were expected to recite them from memory to be Confirmed. Their place above the Communion table reminded all people receiving the Eucharist of the meaning of their Communion and the obligations that came with it. The Ten Commandments represented Christian morality, the Apostles Creed represented Christian belief, and the Lord's Prayer represented the Church's life of prayer. These boards remained standard Anglican church accoutrements until the Victorian era, when crosses and candlesticks began to supplant their place (much to the displeasure of Protestant traditionalists). While hard to find today, these boards did represent a critical idea that Protestantism offers the world: that the call of Jesus demands that every member of the Church should be able to know with clarity what he believes and why he lives the way he does, and he must be ready to profess these things to the world.

*This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.*

### *Stations of the Cross*

We will observe the Stations of the Cross in the church on Friday, March 22 at 6 pm. This short service is a meditation on Jesus' final steps toward his crucifixion and death and its significance for our lives today. It is an excellent spiritual preparation for Holy Week. It will be followed by a light supper of soup in the parish hall.

### *Holy Week and Easter Services:*

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

- Holy Week will begin with **Palm Sunday** on March 24. 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**, March 28, at 7 pm. The service will include a watch at the Altar of Repose until midnight.
- **Good Friday** on March 29, will be celebrated at 7 pm with the traditional "Creeping Towards the Cross" and the recitation of the Solemn Reproaches.
- **Holy Saturday**, on March 30, 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 March 30, at 7:30 pm. 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 March 31, 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.

### News & Announcements

#### ***Outreach***

Souper Bowl Sunday was a great success. We delivered over 134 pounds of soup and some other items. Don't forget to bring nonperishable food items so that we can continue to support the Jacksonville Food Center throughout the entire year.

We are participating in the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches' collection for the Crisis Center during Lent. Household and personal items are needed, along with local gift cards for gas and groceries. A complete list of needed items is on the posters hanging in the hallway.

ECW has decided to take a meal to New Directions at least once a month. In February, they are taking a meal on Tuesday, February 26. If you are interested in helping, please let Jo Ann know, and she can give you the details.

#### ***Parish Life***

The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was attended by 50 people. It was so good to see everyone. A big thanks needs to go to Dana Ryan and Janet Cisne and all of their volunteers who made this a big success.

#### ***United Thank Offering***

As has been the custom, the Spring Ingathering for UTO is the last Sunday in March. This year it be on Easter, March 31, so we are moving it to March 24. On the table in the lobby, there are boxes for you make regular offerings at home, or there are envelopes into which you may make a one-time offering.

#### ***Ash Wednesday***

The special collection was \$728. This included offerings people made at the pancake supper. This money, along with the Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas offerings, goes to outreach programs of the parish.

#### ***Church School – Heifer Project***

The teachers and children have kicked off their Lenten project. The children have had fun learning about the project and how it helps people. In so doing this, each one has chosen an animal or agriculture area to support. Thank you to all who supported their bake sale last Sunday by purchasing items and making special donations. We need to especially thank Gayle Clark and Hilda Radcliffe, who with their families, provided many delicious items for the sale. Sales and special donations add up to \$767 so far!

They will sponsor a lunch after church on March 17 to earn more funds toward their goals.

Boxes to collect money at home are available in the foyer.

#### ***Sunday Ministers***

We can always use more volunteers to serve as lectors, acolytes, and ushers. Please let Fr. Zach or Jo Ann know if you would like to serve.

#### ***Congratulations!***

The Jacksonville Middle School cheerleaders are state champions again! Ellie Scott, daughter of Allison and granddaughter of Bruce & Melissa Evans, is a member of the team. Way to go, Ellie! We are proud of you.

#### ***Death***

**Charley Frank** died on February 24, 2024. The service for him will be announced at a later date.

*May his soul and the souls  
of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*

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

Daylight saving time 2024 in Illinois  
will begin at 2:00 AM on  
**Sunday, March 10**



**Spring Forward!**

**Lectors**

March 3      Forrest Keaton  
March 10     Paula Woods  
March 17     Alice Tracey  
March 24     Nancy Taylor Porter  
March 31     Forrest Keaton

**Acolytes** (Please let Jo Ann know your availability.)

March 3      Clayton Robb  
March 10     Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb  
March 17     Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb  
March 24     Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb  
March 31     Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb

**Ushers**

March 3      Bob Hardwick & Jim Herget  
March 10     John Clancy & Volunteer  
March 17     Bob Hardwick & Jim Herget  
March 24     Chuck Crim & Volunteer  
March 31     John Clancy & Volunteer

**Trinity Fellowship**  
**Tuesday, March 5**  
**7:00 pm**

**Mothering Sunday**  
**March 10**  
**Breakfast 9:00 am**

**ECW**  
**Monday, March 11**  
**5:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Vestry Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 19**  
**7:00 pm**

**SUNDAYS IN  
MARCH 2024**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

March 3:    **The Third Sunday in Lent**  
March 10: **The Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
March 17: **The Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
March 24: **Palm Sunday**  
March 31: **Easter Sunday (10 am only)**

**WEDNESDAYS**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**HOLY DAYS**

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

Note: The Feast of the Annunciation will be  
transferred to April 8, since March 25  
is in Holy Week.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Friday, March 22, 6:00 pm

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

**Spring Ingathering of  
United Thank Offering  
March 24**



The Parish Office is accepting  
donations for the Easter flowers.  
Please send your check by **March 21**,  
so that we can complete the order.