



Trinity Topics

March 2025

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**“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”—*Isaiah 58:6***

In Lent one hears everywhere what people are giving up for Lent, whether smoking, alcohol, or sweets. Some of us might get more spiritual and give up things like gambling or uncharitable thoughts. The more rigorous among us will give up meals on Fridays or other days. These are all worthwhile Lenten disciplines. Yet Lent is not only a time to give things up. Lent is also a time to take up new spiritual disciplines. We lay aside things that are not worthwhile only to take holy things up that will abide in Heaven. In the book of the prophet Isaiah, the prophet observes that fasting as practiced by people in his day was only making everyone miserable, leading to conflict and self-righteousness. Perhaps we know a little of what Isaiah was seeing if we have known someone going through withdrawal from caffeine or nicotine during Lent.

Isaiah offers a different mode of fasting known today as the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy. Fasting, for Isaiah, is a positive journey to holy acts, not merely a negative exercise in going without. Instead of just giving things up for Lent, we are called to give mind to what we are giving things up to. We give up food during Lent and give it to the poor instead. We give up idle activities during Lent and instead use the time to visit the lonely and sick. When we make the Seven Corporal Acts of Mercy our Lenten discipline, we grow both in our connection with God and in our connection to one another. Lent becomes growth in holiness rather than a harrowing act of discipline.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, as they became known in the Middle Ages, are: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to give shelter to travelers, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned, and to bury the dead. Six of these are listed in Isaiah 58, while burying the dead is found in the Book of Tobit. The Gospels also assert that growth in holiness is about the freedom found in repentance. We are not our appetites. Happiness is not one more purchase away. There is more to life than making it day to day. We will only find our truest selves when we look past our own needs to the needs of others. I hope during Lent we come to understand that Jesus gave himself to us on the Cross so that we can be free to give ourselves to others.

We are all richly blessed by God in one way or another, and Lenten fasting is also an opportunity to lay aside our anxieties about what we do not have so we can more clearly see what we do have. In the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, we can hopefully see something we have in abundance that we can share with those who go without, whether it be food, our company, our time, or even just our prayers. Certainly we should give something up for Lent, but this year choose to give up something so that someone else does not have to go without.

Father Zachary Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part LX

Samuel Seabury, the first Bishop of the Episcopal Church, was an Anglican cleric from Connecticut who more or less singlehandedly established the form the Episcopal Church would take after the Revolution. He was a prominent Loyalist during the Revolution who wrote prolifically in support of the Crown. If Britain had won the Revolution, he surely would have been considered one of the Founding Fathers of the nation that the colonies would have become. The official teaching of the Episcopal Church today is that leadership by bishops is a necessary mark of a valid Church. Yet this was very much a minority view after the Revolution. There were even attempts to make the Anglican Church Presbyterian. Samuel Seabury believed, with some basis, that bishops were the surest defense against the excesses of Puritan Congregationalism. Rather than argue his fellow Anglicans to his point of view, he made the shrewd decision to simply make bishops a done deal by going to England to get himself ordained a bishop. English bishops refused—what business does the King’s bishops have in appointing leaders for a Church in another country? The official Church of Scotland, however, was Presbyterian, and Episcopalians were a minority sect. Its bishops, not bound by the obligations of being a State Church, agreed to ordain Seabury a bishop, a moment depicted in one of our stained-glass windows. Bishop Seabury returned to the United States and entered discussions about the form the new Church would take already a bishop. And so, since there was already a bishop leading the Church, the Church would be led by bishops. Due to the work of Bishop Seabury, the role of bishop, more than any dogma, was how Episcopalians distinguished themselves from other Protestants. “Episcopal Church,” means simply “the Church with bishops.”

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

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP FOR MARCH 11

“The Mission of the Church”

This session begins with two introductory questions: From where or from whom did the early Church get its mission? How and why did the early Church get the reputation of being “rabble rousers” and of “turning the world upside down?”

Then, Profs. Bird and Wright seek to summarize the mission of the Church under five topic headings:

The Gospel in the New Testament: What are the five points under which Prof. Bird summarizes the “gospel” or “good news” as found in the New Testament?

The Message of the Early Church: As a living and primary example of the Church’s mission, what was at the heart of Paul’s missionary message and work? In what way can the four Gospels be called “missionary documents?”

The Paradox of the Gospel: According to Prof. Wright, what is the “paradox” of the Gospel as it relates to the mission of the Church? (Hint: it includes both suffering and proclamation!)

The Church and Serving the Poor: Where does the Church’s concern for the poor come from? So, how do we continue the mission of the Church to the poor in our day and time?

The Church and God’s Kingdom: How does the promised Kingdom of God come to be in our world? How does the Church’s mission contribute to the coming of the Kingdom?

Please join us on Tuesday, March 11, at 7:00 pm for dessert.

The video and study will be from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

News & Announcements

Outreach

Alice Tracey reported that the Thanksgiving and Christmas Festival offerings totaled \$1,199. Alice also reported that the daily financial operating needs for New Directions Warming and Cooling Center total \$500.00. After discussion, Alice requested the Vestry approve a one-day sponsorship of New Directions Warming and Cooling Center in the amount of \$500.00 to come out of the Thanksgiving and Christmas Festival Offerings and further that the remaining balance of the Thanksgiving and Christmas Festival Offerings (\$699) be divided equally and disbursed between the remaining five monthly Outreach designations. The Vestry approved these donations.

Souper Bowl Sunday was a great success. We delivered over 100 pounds of soup and 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.

Parish Life

The committee continues to mail the Forward Day By Day booklets to shut-ins and those unable to pick them up. They also delivered Valentine cards and sweets.

The **Shrove Tuesday pancake supper** will be from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, on March 4.

United Thank Offering

As has been the custom, the Spring Ingathering for UTO is the last Sunday in March. This year it be on March 30. On the table in the lobby, there are boxes for you to make regular offerings at home, or there are envelopes into which you may make a one-time offering.

Death

Yvonne Bradley died on February 22, 202. The service for her will be on Friday, February 28, at 10:30 am.

*May her 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 2025 in Illinois
will begin at 2:00 AM on
Sunday, March 9



Spring Forward!

Lectors

March 2 Cathy Nelson
March 9 Nancy Taylor Porter
March 16 Forrest Keaton
March 23 Paula Woods
March 30 Alice Tracey

Acolytes (Please let Jo Ann know your availability.)

March 2 Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
March 9 Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
March 16 Clayton Robb
March 23 Clayton Robb
March 30 Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb

Ushers

March 2 Bob Hardwick & Jim Herget
March 9 Chuck Crim & Volunteer
March 16 John Clancy & Volunteer
March 23 Chuck Crim & Volunteer
March 30 Bob Hardwick & Jim Herget

Shrove Tuesday, March 4

Pancake Supper
5:00 to 6:30 pm

Trinity Fellowship

Tuesday, March 11
7:00 pm

ECW

Thursday, March 13
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, March 18
7:00 pm

Mothering Sunday

March 30
Breakfast 9:00 am

**SUNDAYS IN
MARCH 2025**

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

March 2:

The Last Sunday after Epiphany

March 9: **The First Sunday in Lent**
March 16: **The Second Sunday in Lent**
March 23: **The Third Sunday in Lent**
March 30: **The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Wednesday, March 5:
ASH WEDNESDAY**

7:00 am = Liturgy of Ashes
10:00 am = Liturgy of Ashes & Holy Eucharist
6:00 pm = Liturgy of Ashes & Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAYS

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

HOLY DAYS

Wednesday, March 19: **St. Joseph**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, March 25: **The Annunciation**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Morning Prayer is said

at 10 o'clock

on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

**Spring Ingathering of
United Thank Offering
March 30**



The Parish Office is accepting donations for the Easter flowers. Please send your check by **April 10**, so that we can complete the order.