



Trinity Topics

April 2026

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“Even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.”

—*Book of Common Prayer 1979*

One of the lovely traditions we have at Trinity Church is remembering our loved ones who have died by donating lilies to decorate the church for Easter. The day of the Resurrection is our time to remember the life that the departed have in heaven. We also give flowers to decorate the altar for Sunday services at other times of the year. Remembering the dead with special observances goes back to the very earliest days of the Church, when Christians met at the graves of loved ones to pray. This developed into arranging for a priest to celebrate a special service for a lost family members on important anniversaries of their death. An especially popular way of remembering one's family member was to donate the bread and wine for the Eucharist on Sunday morning. They would offer candles to shine light on holy images in dim churches. A wealthy family might have a plaque installed on the wall of the church reminding all who saw it to pray for the souls of the dead. Of course, by far the most important devotion for remembering the dead was to donate money to the poor. Every church in Christendom had a locked box near the door, and it was considered an essential part of every visit to the church to stop and put in a coin to provide for the needs of the least fortunate in the community.

What does this tradition mean? We pray for the dead in the Episcopal Church because we believe the dead are not dormant or unchanging in the hereafter. According to the funeral service in the *Book of Common Prayer*, the dead continue to “grow in knowledge and love of God, and go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service.” That is, the redemption goes on still even for the dead. Just like we pray for ourselves and our loved ones in life, we continue to pray for the departed in their own dynamic process of redemption. We give the offerings to the church and community they can no longer give themselves. We who are alive are part of one community with the faithful departed, and are on the same journey toward the heart of God together. This is why the memorials we make for those we have lost give us comfort—they show how the departed are still with us in some invisible, but wonderful, way.

What better time can there be to remember the life of the departed than Easter, the Sunday of the Resurrection? This is the time to give the offerings they can no longer give by supporting important ministries in our community such as the Jacksonville Area Food Center or the Spirit of Faith Food Kitchen. Giving flowers to the church is a worthy and beautiful tradition; even more beautiful is when the memory of our loved ones continues to support the life of our community through works of charity. Easter Day reminds us that the Kingdom of God is already among us. The true treasure that will abide in that Kingdom will be our care for the least of God's children.

Fr. Zach Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part LXXIII

The history of Trinity Church reflects a dramatic change in the Episcopal tradition in Victorian Era. The original church was a Classical building of pleasing, rational proportions, a bright interior, and restrained decoration. The interior focused on the pulpit. It was the product of the Early Republic that looked back to the democratic traditions of ancient Greece and Rome. When this building burned down in the 1900's, tastes had greatly changed. The new church is an idealized Gothic building with a tall roof, arches that point to heaven, the dim glow of stained-glass windows, and it's all centered on the altar and the cross upon it. This all looks very normal today, but like so much of life today it reflects the dramatic shifts of the Victorian Era. The explosion of industry upended traditional ways of life. People began to look to a romanticized past as a time of stability. The Romantic Movement began in the arts with depictions of an idealized medieval era and dramatic, pre-modern landscapes where people supposedly lived simpler lives more in tune with the natural cycles of life. The Episcopal tradition was especially inspired by these ideas. Pushing back against the rational, skeptical worldview of modernizing clerics and philosophers, the Romantic Movement began to idealize the mystery and piety of medieval Christianity. Architects revived Gothic church design, artisans reintroduced medieval imagery with stained glass windows, brass crosses, silver chalices, embroidered altar frontals and more. Liturgists brought back long neglected (an even forbidden) customs such as processions at the beginning of services, embroidered vestments, and bowing toward altars. We see all of this as very traditional, but in reality, they are a response to the modern era.

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

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP FOR APRIL 7:

For this month's meeting of Trinity Fellowship, we will be concluding our study of N.T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope*. We will reflect on passages in the Bible that have a vision for how the Resurrection is expressed in our lives today. Be sure to bring your Bible so you can offer one of the readings!

*Please join us on Tuesday, April 7, at 7:00 pm for dessert.
The study and discussion will be from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.*

News & Announcements

The Heifer Project International

Let us not forget what the HPI is:

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. With gifts of livestock and training, Heifer projects help families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways.

The church school has made this its Lenten project. If you wish to contribute before they wrap up their project, there are envelopes on the table in the lobby.

Outreach Committee

Remember that the special Good Friday and Easter offerings go to outreach in our community.

Holy Week and Easter Services:

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

- Holy Week began with **Palm Sunday** on March 29.
- The Paschal Triduum is one long, three-day service that begins on **Maundy Thursday**, April 2, at 7 pm. The service will include a watch at the Altar of Repose until midnight.
- **Good Friday** on April 3, will be celebrated at 7 pm with the traditional “Creeping Towards the Cross” and the recitation of the Solemn Reproaches.
- **Holy Saturday**, on April 4, 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 4, at 8:00 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 April 5, 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.

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



Trinity Fellowship

Tuesday, April 7
7:00 pm

ECW

Build your own salad. Please bring a salad ingredient.
Beverages are provided.

Thursday, April 9
11:30 am

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, April 21
7:00 pm

Lectors

Maundy Thursday	Paula Woods
Good Friday	Forrest Keaton
Great Vigil	Nancy Taylor Porter
April 5	Cathy Nelson
April 12	Paula Woods
April 19	Forrest Keaton
April 26	Nancy Taylor Porter

Acolytes

April 5	Abe Brooks, Clayton Robb & Ethan Scott
April 12	Clayton Robb
April 19	Abe Brooks & Clayton Robb
April 26	Clayton Robb

Ushers

Please let us know if you are available.

April 5	Brandon Carp & Chuck Crim
April 12	Bob Hardwick & Jim Herget
April 19	Chuck Crim & Jim Herget
April 26	Brandon Carp & John Clancy

SERVICES IN APRIL 2026

Wednesday, April 1:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, April 2:
MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 3:
GOOD FRIDAY, 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 4:
Holy Saturday, noon
The Great Vigil, 8:00 pm

Sunday, April 5
EASTER DAY
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 8:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 12
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 15:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 19
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 22:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Saturday, April 25: **St. Mark**
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 26
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 29:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

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