



# Trinity Topics

MAY 2026

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**“Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”**

—1 Corinthians 11:28

In ages past, most people received Holy Communion only a few times a year because it was believed that proper reception of Communion required a period of spiritual preparation. It is unequivocally a good thing that weekly Communion has become the norm, but this has not made spiritual preparation for Communion any less important. In the Eucharist we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made one body with him, and members of one another. Unity with Jesus and unity with one another form the axes along which we prepare ourselves to rightly enter into the Holy Mysteries.

The Holy Eucharist is Jesus’ gift of Himself to His Church. This gift of His salvation to us in the Eucharist is never in question; however, opening our hearts fully to that gift of grace is a matter of lifelong formation in the story Jesus. Preparation for receiving the Eucharist is the process of returning once again to a place of gratitude for Jesus’ work for us in his death and resurrection. Only from this perspective of faith can we really know Jesus in the breaking of this bread. Therefore, prayer, hearing the Word of God preached, and meditating on scripture are essential before participating in the Eucharist.

Communion means coming together with others around the altar. Sins damage this unity. The wrongs we commit have consequences that must be reconciled if possible before we can truly participate in the Lord’s Supper. You must examine your conscience for specific ways you have fallen short of God’s commandments before coming to the Eucharist. Ask God for forgiveness and promise to try to do better, pray for patience and mercy when it is difficult to forgive others, seek out those you have wronged and apologize, and if necessary, ask a priest to undergo the sacrament or Confession.

There are many traditional disciplines with which people have sought to cultivate a pure conscience that is ready to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Giving alms to the poor or other works of mercy are always a great start. Many Christians abstain from meat on Friday and go to Confession as a way of beginning the process of examination of conscience. Others fast before Communion, starting 1 or 3 hours before the service, or from the midnight before, so physical hunger becomes spiritual hunger that is relieved by the Bread of Heaven. Page 834 of the Book of Common Prayer offers prayers for individuals to say to themselves before and after receiving Communion which recall the wonderful presence of Jesus to us in this ceremony. Many say to themselves, simply, “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I will be healed!” while walking up to the altar rail. The Lord does not call only perfect people to his Communion. He only asks that we make ourselves ready for the Work he means to accomplish in these Holy Mysteries.

*Father Zachary Brooks +*

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

The Victorian era coincided with the rise of modernism. The era's reputation for conservatism was actually the reaction to progressive ideas. The spirit of the modern age was about moving forward. There was little reverence for the traditions handed on from the past. Truth, modernists believed, was found in rational and scientific inquiry, not in deference to received authorities like inspired Church teaching or Scripture. "Because the Bible says so!" was not seen as the end of the argument anymore. Protestant Churches were not immune to this new way of thinking. The Protestant Reformation, it must be noted, was a fundamentally conservative movement. The Protestant Reformers saw themselves as restoring the purity of the Apostolic Church against popish novelties. Modernist Protestants, however, saw themselves as moving on from the darkness of the past, and they recast Protestantism as reforming itself away from the darkness of Roman Catholic superstition. The problem, of course, is that once a theologian takes it upon himself to draw a line through the received traditions of the Church, to decide what is rational and what is ancient nonsense, there are no guidelines besides his own assumptions for where to draw the line. Is the Church's teaching on marriage rational? How about the Trinity? What about the place of women in the Church? Protestant theology broke into conservative and progressive factions which disagreed about what should be maintained and what should be left behind. In Anglicanism, the Evangelical and Anglo-Catholic movements attempted to address the challenge of modernity in different ways, at the cost of shattering the liturgical and theological unity of Anglican Churches. No longer could one walk into any Anglican Church in the world and necessarily experience the same service. It must also be noted that the debate about how the Church must respond to the challenge of modernism has yet to be resolved. The Church is still looking for the authority and certainty that it enjoyed in ages past.

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

### **May Feast Days**

May this year contains three of the most important feasts of the Christian calendar. They conclude the Easter Season and lead us into Ordinary Time. **Ascension Day** on Thursday, May 14 celebrates Jesus returning to his Father in heaven, the conclusion of his ministry on Earth. This feast is a reminder the heaven is always near when Jesus is with us. On Sunday, May 24, we will celebrate **Pentecost**, when we remember the descent of the Spirit on the Church and remind ourselves of our mission to bring the love of Jesus into the world. Finally, on Sunday, May 31, we celebrate our own community on **Trinity Sunday**. We will observe our Feast of Title with a potluck after the second service. Be sure to make time to see what God will do in our community at these celebrations!

## **News & Announcements**

### ***The Heifer Project International***

The Church School would like to announce that they raised **\$2756.69** for *The Heifer Project International*. This enables the children to “buy”: a heifer, a water buffalo, a goat, 2 flocks of bees, a pig, 3 sheep, 2 flocks of chickens, some fish, garden seeds, and clean water, along with sending funds to a school for girls.

Thanks to all the members of the Parish who contributed throughout the Lenten season. Without your generous donations, this would not have been such a great success and learning experience for the children.

We need to especially thank our Church School teachers Janet Cisne, Gayle Clark, Abby Radcliffe, and Hilda Radcliffe who donated baked goods, peaches, and MUCH time. At the bake sale, local honey was also sold to benefit the Project, thanks to Jim Herget.

### ***Outreach Committee***

The Food Center was very grateful for the egg cartons our parish provided. They request that we continue to provide them. They also appreciate both food donations and monetary donations. The containers for donations are in the hallway of the parish hall.

### ***Special Offerings & Outreach***

The Good Friday Offering was \$861; the Easter Offering was \$2369. This money, along with that received on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Ash Wednesday goes to the Outreach Programs of Trinity Church. The Vestry approved that these funds (totaling \$4860) be sent to Cass-Schuyler Area Hospice, Jacksonville Promise, Midwest Youth Services, Senior Chaplaincy Program, Jacksonville Area Food Center, and New Directions.

Trinity Church also sends monthly donations to Unmet Needs, Jacksonville Area Food Center, Salvation Army, New Directions, Crisis Center, and Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen.

### ***Doorbell Dinners***

Trinity Church will deliver Doorbell Dinners the week of May 11-15. Please contact K-Lou Ashmore to let her know when you can help.

### ***Altar Flowers***

We are blessed to have so many generous donors for our Sunday altar flowers. Most of them have had regular dates that are special to them. However, we always try to be flexible if there is a special date for you. We have open dates at the end of May and in July, August, and September. Please let Jo Ann know if you are interested in donating.

### ***Congratulations***

Evan Williams, grandson of Mary Wilson, graduates on May 1, from Spurgeon College in Kansas City, Missouri. Evan will continue his education at Liberty University School of Law in Lynchburg, Virginia.

***\*If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.  
Spring time brings graduations and awards ceremonies. We'd love to share your news!***

**Trinity Fellowship**  
will end its study year  
with a potluck.

**May 5, 6:00 pm**  
*Please sign up in the Parish Hall.*

**ECW**

Build your own salad supper meeting  
Dessert and beverages are provided.

**Tuesday, May 12**  
**5:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Vestry**

**Tuesday, May 19**

**7:00 pm**

**Sunday, May 31**  
**Trinity Sunday**

Last day of regular Church School & Choir  
*Parish Potluck*

**Lectors**

May 3	Cathy Nelson
May 10	Forrest Keaton
May 17	Beth Hilleke
May 24	Paula Woods
May 31	Jo Ann Nelson

**Acolytes**

May 3	Clayton Robb
May 10	Clayton Robb
May 17	Abraham Brooks & Clayton Robb
May 24	Clayton Robb
May 31	Clayton Robb

**Ushers**

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

**SERVICES IN MAY 2026**

**Friday, May 1:**

St. Philip & St. James  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 3: EASTER V**

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

**Wednesday, May 6:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 10: EASTER VI**

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

**Wednesday, May 13:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, May 14: ASCENSION DAY**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 17: EASTER VII**

The Sunday after Ascension Day

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

**Wednesday, May 20:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 24:**

**DAY OF PENTECOST**

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

**Wednesday, May 27:**

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 31:**

**TRINITY SUNDAY**

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