

# Trinity Church

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026  
7 am ~ Noon ~ 7:00 pm



**We are glad you are here today.**

If you are looking for a place to seek God and discover companions for the journey, you are invited to be at home here. If you are new, please complete a pew card and place it in the collection plate. We are happy to tell you about life at Trinity.



*The journey through Lent*

leads to the JOYS OF EASTER.



For me, the Incarnation is the heart of Christianity. Love is born into this world. Love leads us into all truth. Love gives up his

life for us. Love is raised so that we may be raised to new life as well. This Love, of course, is Jesus.

I believe that the movement through Lent and Easter is the soul of the Christian journey. It defines who we are at our very core, and mines the depths of who God is even now calling us to be. We journey intentionally and quietly through Lent through worship, study, and acts of generosity. We examine our faith, our belief and trust in God. We look at how our lives are aligned with the way Jesus taught us to live. Do we love God with all our heart, our mind, and our strength? Do we love our neighbors as ourselves? Is Jesus Christ at the center of all we say and do? Are we participating in God's plan for creation, the building up of the Kingdom of God, helping all to know God's unconditional love for all, and God's justice, freedom, and peace? Before we can celebrate God's great redeeming of the human condition, we have to first ask ourselves these hard questions.

We won't get an A+ on our spiritual report card; only Jesus gets a perfect score. But we have many opportunities for growth, for improvement, and we have the grace of God to lift us up when we most need it.

Some say that it takes an intentional and vigorous Lent to have a joyous Easter. I'm not sure that's always true. But we do have to move through Lent in order to reach Easter. And each year, as we journey through, I believe that with God's grace we will end up someplace new. Even though the church year is circular, our spiritual journey is more like a spiral with each lap around the church year drawing us closer and closer to God. This is where Lent gets us, and this is something to celebrate at Easter.

I pray we all have a blessed Lent that will lead us to a joyous Easter season.

In Christ,  
Mother Susan+

*The altar party enters in silence. Please stand.*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*God's mercy endures forever.*

Let us pray

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

#### THE LESSONS

JOEL 2:1-2,12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged ;gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?”’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 103: 8-14

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*Thanks be to God.*

THE GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord  
*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON

The Reverend Susan Wrathall

THE INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the

faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept. All are invited to kneel as is physically comfortable.*

#### BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

#### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those desiring imposition of ashes should form a line in the center aisle. Receive the ashes & return by way of the side aisles to your pew. The ashes are imposed as follows:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PSALM 51 (*said together kneeling as is physically comfortable*)

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

- 5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.



## LITANY OF PENITENCE

*The Presider and People together, all kneeling as is physically comfortable.*

**Most holy and merciful Father we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

*The Presider continues:*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to

injustice and cruelty,  
***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;  
***Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.***

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
***That we may show forth your glory in the world.***

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
***Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.***

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*And also with you.*

HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN 574

*Before thy throne O God*

DOXOLOGY & PRESENTATION

*(7 am & Noon said)*

All things come of thee O Lord  
*and of thine own have we given thee.*

*(7:00 pm - sung)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here  
below, Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy  
Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (EOW *Eucharistic Prayer 1*)

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God,  
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your  
constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one  
body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to the fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of  
every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

*Presider and People*

*(7 am & noon – said)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus S130

(7 pm sung)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated

your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: *(together)*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your Name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those  
 who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial,  
 and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power,  
 and the glory are yours,  
 now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD  
*(7 am & Noon said)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.  
*Have mercy on us.*  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.  
*Have mercy on us.*  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.  
*Grant us peace.*

S 164 *(7:00 pm sung)*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937); Adaption copyright c. 1985: GIA Publications; Reprinted under the Episcopal Diocese of RI's license with Church Publishing, Inc.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

### COMMUNION

*All Christians are welcome to receive communion. No one will be turned away. Please come to the communion rail as you are able and kneel or stand to receive. You may sip from the chalice or the eucharistic minister can intinct for you. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you cannot come to the rail, communion will be brought to the pavement or to your seat as needed. Gluten free wafers are available.*

### COMMUNION HYMN *Wonder Love and Praise* 825

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

Together let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

### FINAL PRAYER (*Book of Occasional Services*)

Presider: Bow down before the Lord.

*The people kneel*

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love & serve the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

*The altar party departs in silence.*

Participants

Altar Guild: Wayne Barnes, Kelley Elderkin, Dawn O’Hara, Linda Whittaker

7:00 am

Reader: Scott Avedisian

Noon

Euch Min: Cathi Beattie

Reader: Jeannette Hogan

Usher: Tom Hogan

7:00 pm

Euch Min: Margaret Thomas

Reader & Acolyte: Rob Duncanson

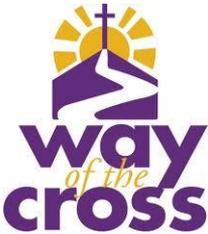
Usher: Kelley Elderkin

***JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WITH TRINITY CHURCH***

Mondays: 6 pm Meditation on ZOOM

Tuesdays: 9:30 am Men’s Group with Bible Study

Third Sundays: 8:45 am Living Stones in the Education Room



THE WAY OF THE CROSS – FRIDAYS AT 6 PM

Using Trinity’s lovely stations, walk in Jesus’ footsteps as he makes his way to the Cross through readings and prayer. This 30-minute service can be a meaningful addition to your Lenten journey.



Join Mother Susan and

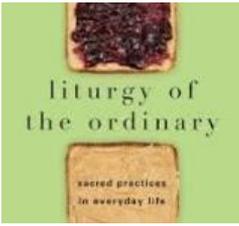
**EXPLORE THE HOLY WEEK GOSPELS**

Thursdays in March 5, 12, 19, 26

9 am AND 6 pm

In the Education room





LITURGY OF THE ORDINARY  
FIVE SUNDAY EVENINGS IN LENT  
6-8:30 PM  
*Childcare provided*

We begin with soup and salad supper, followed by video and discussion, and finally Compline.

In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred?

Framed around one ordinary day, this course explores daily life through the lens of liturgy, small practices, and habits that form us. Each session looks at something—making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keys—that we do every day. Drawing from the diversity of her life as a campus minister, Anglican priest, friend, wife, and mother, Tish Harrison Warren opens up a practical theology of the everyday. Each activity is related to a spiritual practice as well as an aspect of our Sunday worship. Come and discover the holiness of your every day.

## Trinity Church

139 Ocean Avenue | Cranston, Rhode Island 02905 | (401) 941-4324

The Reverend Susan Wrathall, Priest-in-Charge  
Alan Cotnoir, Music Director  
Carl Hurtubise, Sunday School Superintendent



### Vestry Members

Robert Duncanson, Senior Warden  
Ann Walter, Treasurer, Ginny Simms, Clerk  
Alyson Aharonian, Vickie Ancona, Cindy Castellone,  
Kevin Cliff, Carol Deming, Jeannette Hogan, Robert Whittaker

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