



# TRINITY

EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL  
A house of prayer for all people

---

Ash Wednesday  
February 18, 2026, 7 p.m.

---

***Welcome:** Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-time member, we are honored to worship with you today. If you are searching for a church home, we would love to tell you more about this congregation and to learn more about you. Fill out a visitor card found in the back of the pew in front of you, drop it in the offering plate, and we'll be in conversation with you this week. Above all, please know that this is your Cathedral, and all are welcome.*

***Hymns are found in the red hymnal.***

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

**THE PRELUDE**

O MENSCH, BEWEIN DEIN SÜNDE GROSS, BWV 622  
*(O man, bewail thy sin so great)*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The service begins with a silent procession. All stand as the procession enters.*

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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.**

*All sit.*

**B**low 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?’”

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 103:8-14** *Sung by the choir*

*Plainsong (Tone VIII.2)*

*The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \**  
*slow to anger and of great kindness.*

*He will not always accuse us, \**  
*nor will he keep his anger for ever.*

*He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \**  
*nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.*

*For as the heavens are high above the earth, \**  
*so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.*

*As far as the east is from the west, \**  
*so far has he removed our sins from us.*

*As a father cares for his children, \**  
*so does the LORD care for those who fear him.*

*For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.*

## THE EPISTLE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

**W**e 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.

*Lector*     **The Word of the Lord.**

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN 143

THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS

*Erhalt uns, Herr*

## THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

*Deacon*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People*     **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**J**esus 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.”

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

### THE INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

*All stand.*

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 then kept for a time, all kneeling*

### THE PRAYER OVER 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.**

*All are invited to come forward to the altar rail for the imposition of ashes. If, for whatever reason, you would like to receive the ashes in your pew, let your usher know. The ashes are imposed with the following words*

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

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to  
your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my  
offenses.*

*Wash me through and through from my  
wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.*

*Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.*

*And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment*

*Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.*

*For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom  
secretly.*

*Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.*

*Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may  
rejoice.*

*Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.*

*Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.*

*I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.*

*Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your  
righteousness, O God of my salvation.*

*Open my lips, O LORD, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*Had you desired it, I would have offered  
sacrifice; \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.*

*The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you  
will not despise.*

## THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

**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 Celebrant 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.**

*The Celebrant stands and, facing the people, says*

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

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Then all may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

CIVITAS SANCTI TUI

*William Byrd*

*Civitas sancti tui facta est deserta.*

*Sion deserta facta est, Jerusalem desolata est.*

Thy holy cities are a wilderness,  
Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.

*Text: Isaiah 64:10*

*During the Offertory Anthem, ushers collect an offering from the congregation.  
Use the QR code to make a plate offering.*



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - PRAYER A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

### COMMUNION SERVICE IN F

*Herbert Sumsion*

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.*

*Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.*

*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*All stand or kneel.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*A period of silence is kept.*

FRACTION ANTHEM

COMMUNION SERVICE IN F

*Herbert Sumson*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

*Celebrant* 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.

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*To receive the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion, please come forward and kneel or stand at the Altar rail. Gluten-free Bread is available upon request. If you prefer not to drink the Wine, please know that receiving only Bread is a “full Communion.” If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the Bread and Wine, come forward to the rail and cross your arms over your chest. If, for whatever reason, you prefer to receive the Bread and Wine in your pew, let your usher know.*

### MOTET

LORD, FOR THY TENDER MERCY’S SAKE

*Richard Farrant*

*Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake, lay not our sins to our charge,  
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.  
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore. Amen.*

*Text from Lidley’s Prayers (1566)*

### HYMN 701

JESUS, ALL MY GLADNESS

*Jesu, meine Freude*

### THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

### THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

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.

### HYMN 148

CREATOR OF THE EARTH AND SKIES

*Uffingham*

### THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### THE POSTLUDE

ERBARM DICH MEIN, O HERRE GOTT, BWV 72 I  
*(O God, be merciful to me)*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

**Notes on the Notes:** This evening's voluntaries are chosen for their appropriateness on Ash Wednesday. The prelude, *O Mensch, beweine*, dwells on humankind's sinfulness and is one of Bach's most beloved ornamental chorale preludes. The postlude, *Erbarm dich*, is one of Bach's most strikingly plain and austere - but still beautiful and deeply moving - chorale preludes. Its text is a paraphrase of Psalm 51, the psalm traditionally said or sung during the Imposition of Ashes.

## LITURGICAL LEADERS

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Very Rev. Andrea McMillin, <i>Dean and Rector</i>
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. Thomas Alexander, <i>Curate</i>
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Dr. Susan Loy Lyon
<i>Assisting Clergy</i>	The Rev. Peggy Cromwell, <i>Priest Associate for Pastoral Care</i> The Rev. Susan Payne, <i>Priest Associate</i>
<i>Lectors</i>	Denise Albert, Barry Coplin
<i>Lay Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Greg Albert, Missy McCain
<i>Vergers</i>	Otis Howe, Michael McNeely
<i>Acolytes</i>	Allison Tuite, Evie Tuite
<i>Music</i>	Dr. Colin MacKnight, <i>Director of Music</i> Katie Gunn, <i>Associate Director of Music</i> Trinity Cathedral Choir
<i>Ushers</i>	Herschel Cast, Barry Coplin

## Sundays in Lent: Claiming Our Faith

9:15 a.m. in Morrison Hall

Breakfast will be served

Throughout Lent, the Sunday School classes for all ages will focus on the five components of our Rule of Life here at Trinity: worshiping, praying, learning, serving, and giving. Here is the schedule for the adult Sunday School class:

February 22 – “Worship” with the Rev. Thomas Alexander

March 1 – “Prayer” with Br. Jack Crowley and Br. Lain Wilson, SSJE

March 8 – “Learn” with the Rev. Thomas Alexander

March 15 – “Serve” with an all ages service event by Matthew 25

March 22 – “Give” with the Very Rev. Andrea McMillin

**Wednesdays in Lent - Offering opportunities to go deeper into a life with God. Every Wednesday follows the same schedule:**

11:00 a.m. – Bible Study: The Psalms as Prayer

12:15 p.m. – Organ Recital

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Community Dinner

5:30 p.m. – Healing Eucharist

6:00 p.m. – Koinonia Eucharist

6:30 p.m. – Book Club: Gary Anderson’s *Sin: A History*

7:30 p.m. – Choral Compline

## The Rite of Reconciliation

Those who wish to make a private confession are welcome to do so at any time in the Episcopal Church. The season of Lent is a good opportunity for newcomers to try out this practice. To make an appointment, please contact the Very Rev. Andrea McMillin ([andrea@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:andrea@trinitylittlerock.org)), the Rev. Thomas Alexander ([thomas@trinitylittlerock.org](mailto:thomas@trinitylittlerock.org)), and the Rev. Peggy Cromwell ([cromwellpeggy@gmail.com](mailto:cromwellpeggy@gmail.com)).

## Men’s Group in Lent

Thursdays of Lent at 8:00 a.m., beginning February

19 in Baker Parlor in Keller House

Join men of the parish for fellowship, mutual support, and prayer in a small group setting.

## Daytime Bible Study: The Psalms as Prayer

Wednesdays in Lent, 11 a.m. (beginning February

25) in Baker Parlor in Keller House

Develop prayer practices using the Psalms.

## Book Club: *Sin: A History* by Gary Anderson

Wednesdays in Lent, 6:30 p.m. (beginning February 25)

Conference Room in Keller House

What is sin? Learn how sin as a concept has evolved over history.

## Lenten Quiet Day led by Brothers from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist

Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Pierce Chapel

Beginning with Morning Prayer in Pierce Chapel and ending with Holy Communion. All are welcome.

Learn More  
about all the  
offerings in  
Lent



## Choir and Orchestra Concert: Haydn and Mozart

March 6 at 7 pm

The Trinity Choir and members of the Arkansas Symphony will present a concert of Haydn’s Te Deum in C and Mozart’s ‘Great’ Mass in C minor. Along with the Requiem, the Mass in C minor is Mozart’s most important contribution to sacred music. Also like the Requiem, it is unfinished. This concert is free with a suggested donation of \$15. Reception to follow.