



TRINITY

EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
A house of prayer for all people

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026, 8 a.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.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Celebrant Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

People **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

EXODUS 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16 *Attendite, popule*

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
H incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

**That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.**

**We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.**

**He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.**

**He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.**

**He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.**

**He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.**

**He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.**

THE SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Deacon

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

*People***Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People***Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

Said by all, standing

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and

the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Deacon and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Celebrant then says one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God...

...Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

THE SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again...

...By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

✿ ALTAR GIFTS ✿

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MARGUERITE GRIFFIN GERARD AND HER SONS JOE GERARD AND B. CHARLES MORTEN
BY GAIL GERARD

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING FOR THE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF
NEAL AND NAT LEA

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR
THOMAS HALE DOWDEN ON HIS 2ND BIRTHDAY
BY MARY CLAIRE AND MITCHELL DOWDEN

LITURGICAL LEADERS

Celebrant and Preacher

The Very Rev. Andrea McMillin, *Dean and Rector*

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Susan Loy Lyon, *Deacon*

Lector and Lay Eucharistic Minister

Judy Barger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We'd love to connect with you about how to make this church your home. To do so, please fill out one of the pew cards in front of you and drop it in the offertory plate.

Please join us for coffee and continental breakfast after the service in Morrison Hall.

This week at and around the Cathedral

Today	12 p.m.	Cottage Gathering	5 p.m.	St. Cecilia Choir Rehearsal
	4 p.m.	Choral Evensong		Trinity Ringing Society
	5 p.m.	EKC/EYC	5:15 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing Prayers
Monday	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer		Community Dinner
Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	6 p.m.	Koinonia Eucharist
	6 p.m.	Cottage Gathering hosted by Elizabeth and Tom Clark	6:30 p.m.	Book Club
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Thursday	8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
	12:15 p.m.	Organ Recital		5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer
	4 p.m.	Chorister Rehearsal		7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS

QR codes provided for additional information and registrations

Necrology for All Souls' Requiem on November 1

All Souls' Day is a chance for our congregation to remember and pray for our beloved dead. During the Requiem Eucharist for All Souls' Day on Sunday, November 1 at 4 p.m., we will pray the "Necrology," a list of names of those who have died. If you have names you would like included in this year's Necrology, please email them to Missy McCain (missy@trinitylittlerock.org) by Wednesday, October 28. Please note that names submitted in previous years will not automatically be added to this year's list.

Next Opportunities for Holy Baptism

We will next celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 10:30 a.m., and then on Sunday, January 10, 2027 at 10:30 a.m. If you or a family member would like to be baptized, contact the Rev. Thomas Alexander at thomas@trinitylittlerock.org.

Join us for a Cottage Gathering near you!

Now through October 15, parishioners are invited to gather in homes throughout our community for an evening of fellowship and conversation about the life we are building together. Our stewardship campaign theme, How Firm a Foundation, gives thanks for the strong foundation we have received and strengthened together, while looking with hope toward the work ahead in this new season at Trinity.

At each gathering, we'll enjoy time with fellow parishioners, hear more about the opportunities before us, and reflect on how our generosity helps provide a firm foundation for Trinity's ministry in the years to come. Choose a cottage gathering in your neighborhood—or whichever date and location works best for you—and sign up to join us.



Christmas Pageant Sign-up is happening now!

All children and youth, grades K–12, are invited to help bring the story of Christ's birth to life through scripture, music, and drama. The Cathedral Christmas Pageant offers an enduring opportunity for young people to grow in faith while sharing the joy, wonder and hope of Christmas with our parish family and beyond!

The 2026 pageant is set for Sunday, December 13 at 4 p.m. with a festive reception to follow.

Initial details regarding preparations will be emailed to parents this week but feel free to use the Pageant



Registration Form linked in the QR code to sign your kids up today!

Our pageant coordinators, Susan Allen and Julie Keller, are glad to provide more information and answer any questions you may have: Susan Allen (slyallen68@gmail.com 501.749.5943) Julie Keller (juliekeller2@me.com 501.454.8369)

Choral Evensong with Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 at 4 p.m.

The annual Blessing of the Animals will take place during the choral evensong service on Sunday October 5 at 4 p.m. Pets are welcome to join the congregation in the Cathedral for this service. Alternatively, a stuffed animal or photo of a beloved pet can be brought for blessing.

A reception with pet friendly treats will follow.

The Cathedral Forum: Cathedral Life: Topics in Mission and Ministry

Sundays, 9:15 a.m., Morrison Hall

The Cathedral Forum is Trinity's principal adult education gathering each Sunday morning, bringing together clergy, parishioners, and guest speakers for engaging presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and our common life. Our next series, "Cathedral Life: Topics in Mission and Ministry," led by the Very Rev. Andrea McMillin, will turn our attention to Trinity itself. Each week, we'll explore a different aspect of the Cathedral's ministry and mission, taking a closer look at some of the people, ministries, opportunities, and commitments that are shaping our life together. Along the way, we'll celebrate what God is already doing in and through our Cathedral and consider how we might strengthen and build upon that work in the years ahead.

The Trinity Book Club: *Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Parish House Room 101

Join us each Wednesday evening as we read and discuss classic and contemporary books that deepen our understanding of the Christian life. Our conversations are thoughtful, welcoming, and open to anyone who enjoys reading alongside others. The Trinity Book Club next turns to one of the most compelling Christian voices of the twentieth century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor and theologian who resisted the Nazi regime and was executed in the final weeks of World War II. His most famous work, *Discipleship* (ISBN: 0800683242), asks what happens when we take Jesus' call to "follow me" seriously. The discussion will be led by the Rev. Thomas Alexander. To sign up, contact thomas@trinitylittlerock.org.

September 30: remainder of Chapter 6–Chapter 7

October 7: Chapters 8–11

October 14: Chapters 12–13

The Inquirers' Class: *Your Faith, Your Life* by Jennifer Gamber

Sundays, 9:15 am

Parish House Room 101

Led by members of the Cathedral clergy, our Inquirers' Class is a welcoming introduction to the Episcopal Church for newcomers and a refresher for longtime Episcopalians. Together, we'll explore the beliefs, worship, history, and practices of the Episcopal Church, while getting to know one another in a relaxed setting. Our textbook is *Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church* by Jennifer Gamber. To register or learn more, contact the Rev. Thomas Alexander at thomas@trinitylittlerock.org.

Weekly Lunchtime Organ Recitals

Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m.

30-minute lunchtime organ recitals happen every Wednesday at 12:15 pm beginning September 16. Come enjoy some wonderful music during your lunch break!

Sunday Evening Youth Groups

EKC (4th-5th) & EYC (6th-12th)

Sundays, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Youth Room, Chancellors Hall

Every Sunday evening, our youth gather for food and fellowship. Our two communities share dinner together for the first 30 minutes, and then gather separately for 1 hour of programming, including faith formation, games, and service projects. This is a weekly opportunity to grow as disciples in a joyful and welcoming community. We invite parents and other volunteers to help provide weekly dinner for our youth, sign up here: <https://bit.ly/tclrsundaydinners>

To learn more, contact Emma Mitchell at emma@trinitylittlerock.org.

Upcoming Schedule

Sept 27: Garden Service Project Day

Oct 4: Blessing of the Animals Service Project

Oct 11: Tie-Dye Night

Trinitas Ensemble Fall Concert: The American Soundscape

Saturday, October 17 at 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church 800 Scott St, Little Rock, AR 72201

In honor of the country's 250th birthday, The Trinitas Ensemble, Arkansas's only fully professional choir, will present a program of music by American composers. Tickets cost \$15 and are free for people ages 17 and under. For tickets, visit bit.ly/trinitas2.

New Program at Camp Mitchell: *Grown-Up & Me: First Timer Mini-Camp*

October 16–17 at Camp Mitchell

Designed especially for first-time campers and their grown-ups, this mini-camp is a wonderful opportunity to experience the magic of Camp Mitchell together—making memories, exploring the mountain, enjoying camp activities, and growing in community.

Wondering what to expect? We've put together a helpful Parent FAQ with information about Camp Mitchell, what your weekend will look like, what to bring, and more!

We can't wait to welcome our newest campers and their grown-ups to the mountain!

All Souls' Day Requiem by John Rutter (with chamber orchestra)

Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 4 pm

In commemoration of All Souls' Day, the Trinity Choir and members of the Arkansas Symphony will perform John Rutter's Requiem with chamber orchestra. Rutter's Requiem is an Anglican perspective on the typical Requiem. Rutter sets most of the Latin Requiem text, but also inserts English settings of Psalm 130 (Out of the deep), Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd), and other biblical verses. A festive reception will follow.



COMPLETE A VISITOR CARD

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST

EXPLORE OUR WEBSITE



SCAN HERE