The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023 10:30 a.m.



The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector The Reverend Dale Klitzke, Priest Associate

Alex Jones, Organist and Choirmaster

Making God's Presence Real By Sharing Christ's Life-Changing Love

WELCOME TO TRINITY CHURCH

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church! We're glad you chose to worship with us. We follow the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) to guide our worship. In this leaflet, you'll find everything you need to follow along printed.

Whether you've been attending Trinity your whole life or this is your first time here, we invite you to participate in the service as fully as you feel comfortable doing.

If you're looking for a new church home, know that the Trinity family welcomes you. We would also appreciate your filling out a virtual visitors card, which can be accessed at this link:

https://www.trinitymidtown.org/contact-card-page/

For more information, please visit our website: www.trinitymidtown.org

Facebook Live Stream. Please be advised that this service is live streamed through our Trinity Facebook Page and YouTube channels. By participating in the service, you are consenting to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your children who participate.

Children 3yrs through 3rd grade Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Meets in room 112 at 9:30 a.m. and the children return to their parents at the passing of the peace.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- Your children are welcome here at Trinity! First, please relax and enjoy your time here. We know that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it.
- Each Sunday, your child may pick up a pew activity in the back of the church.
- To make things easier for your family, dare to sit closer to the front where your child can see what's going on at the altar. Guide them in the liturgy and be models for them. Help them sing the hymns and encourage them to stand/sit when appropriate, say "Amen" and "Thanks be to God," and generally help them be a part of the service. The liturgy belongs to them too.
- If you have to leave, hurry back! Jesus wants the children here, and we do too. If you need help, just ask. There are many here who are willing to lend you a hand.
- Children's activity and worship bulletins are available for download from our website under the "Worship—Bulletins" tab, or following this link:

https://www.trinitymidtown.org/childrens-bulletins/

VESTRY Andy Durham, Senior Warden John Escoto, Junior Warden

Eric Beam Ben Blanding Pam Lawson Mary Matteucci Ann McCoy John Merullo Samantha Rainman Gladys Vallés David Villarreal Michele White

Teddy Adams, Chancellor Dana Gannon, Assistant Chancellor Larry Laubach, Treasurer Steve Lee, Assistant Treasurer Ben Blanding, Clerk of the Vestry Samantha Rainman, Assistant Clerk of the Vestry

LAY MINISTERS SERVING TODAY

Lector: Stan Tubbs Prayers: Dana Gannon LEMs: Ron Mailloux, Norma Cooper Acolytes: B. Walton, J. Sennewald, A. Sennewald, G. Chambers, S. Chambers, H. Hensman Ushers: Dana Gannon, Elmer Romero, Jason Hruska Verger: Steve Lee Vestry of the Day: Pam Lawson

Altar Guild: Mark Goza, Shelby Bradley

Audio Visual: Jeremy Velasquez

The High Altar flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God and in remembrance of Stephen Wentland on the occasion of his 83rd birthday by Wendy Wentland





Follow us on:

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchhouston

Instagram https://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown

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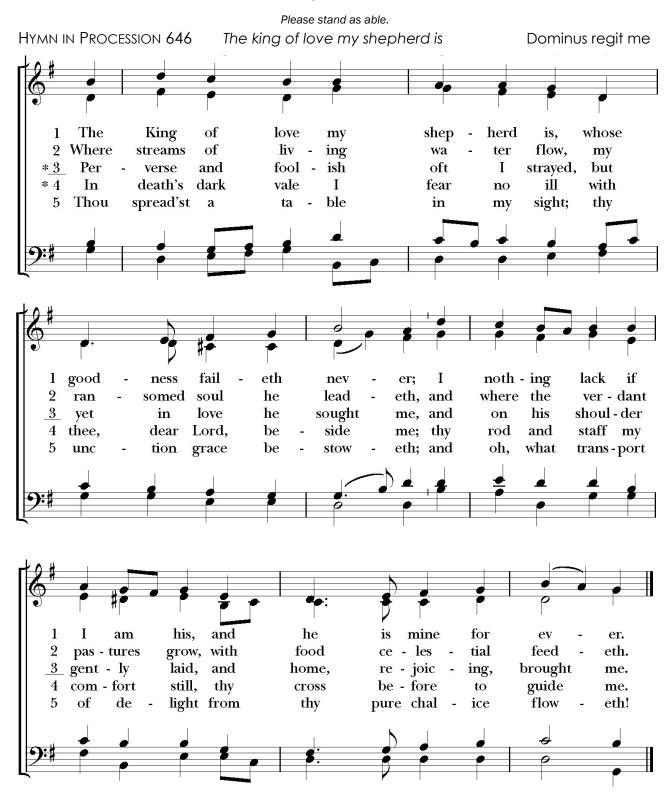
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

10:30 a.m. Historic Church

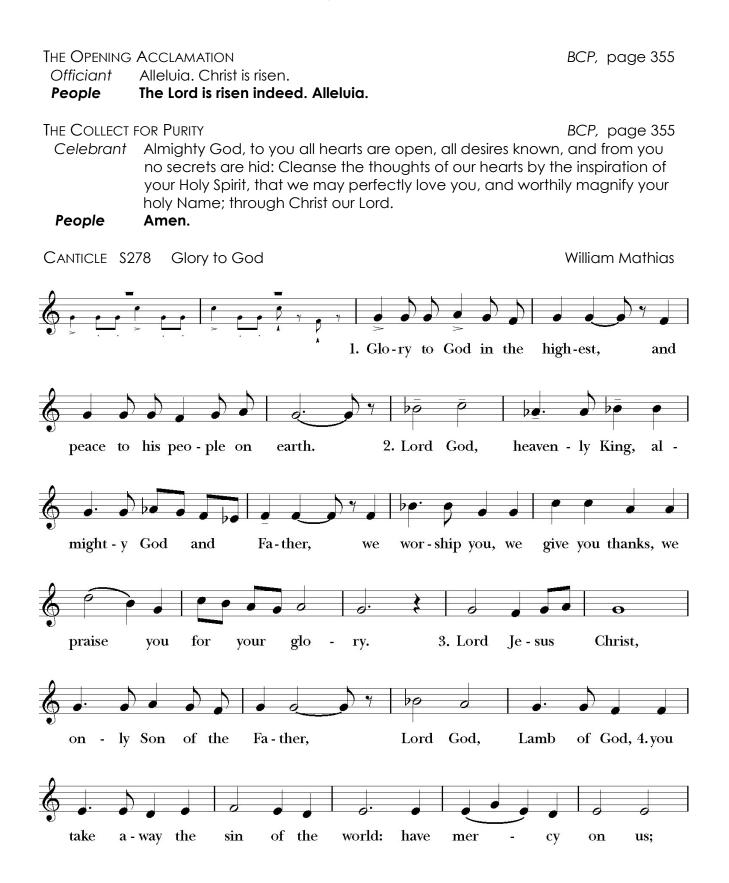
Please enter in a spirit of prayerful contemplation.

VOLUNTARY

The Liturgy of the Word



6 And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.



5



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.
 O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
 People Amen.

The First Lesson

Acts 2: 42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader The Word of the Lord. **People Thanks be to God**.

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me Sung by the Choir. Goss, #49

1 Peter 2: 19-25

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; * for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Lesson

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader The Word of the Lord. **People Thanks be to God**.



The Holy Gospel

John 10: 1-10

OfficiantThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am

the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

OfficiantThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector

Please stand as able.

NICENE CREED

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, Form VI

BCP, page 392

We invite you to offer any prayers you wish to share in the comment section.

Reader	In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;
People	For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
Reader	We pray for Joseph, our president; Kamala, our vice-president; Greg, our governor; Lina, our county judge; Sylvester, our mayor; and the legislatures, and courts: For this community, the nation, and the world:
People	For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
Reader	For the end of systemic racism that divides us; for the just and proper use of your creation;
People	For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
Reader	For all women and men, boys and girls who are homeless this day, and for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble.
People	For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Reader	In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Most Reverend Michael Curry and the Episcopal Church. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for St. Mark's, Houston; Trinity, Baytown; and Trinity, Houston. In the ministry cycle of prayer for Norma Cooper and the Prayer Chain ministry. For the peace and unity of the Church of God.
People	For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
Reader	For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai (pronounced "Kaye"), and Hector, our Bishops; for Hannah, Luz and Dale, our clergy; for all who minister in this place; and for all bishops and other ministers.
People	For all who serve God in his Church.
Reader	For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially those who are on our prayer list: Bill, Nick, Byron, Florence, Charles, Kathy, Demetrick, Christopher, Letha, Connie, Phil, Evan, Susan, Paul, Mary, Bob, Yvonne, and Mary. Hear us, Lord;
People	For your mercy is great.
Reader	We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, especially for the birth of Valentino Gabriel Aleksandr Misirian, and for Paul, Jacob, Rob, and Saba as they celebrate their birthdays.
	We will exalt you, O God our King;
People	And praise your Name for ever and ever.
Reader	We pray for all who have died, especially for the Reverend Greg Buffone, all victims of gun violence, and all who have perished from contracting the Coronavirus, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
	Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People	Who put their trust in you.
Celebrant	Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
People	Amen.
	The children who attended Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will return at this point so that they can participate with their families in the Holy Communion. Please stand as able.
The Peace	
Celebrant People	The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.
	Please pass the peace in a socially distanced manner. Please be seated.
Blessing of t	THE CHILDREN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see our complete announcements and the Weekly Window at the end of this bulletin.

THE HOLY COMMUNION Please be seated

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offering

Online Giving is available through AccessACS.

Go to www.trinitymidtown.org and click the "Give" button on the top right, or click: https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=156477

Texting. Send the message **heartofmidtown** to **73256**. Be sure to type heartofmidtown with no spaces, or autocorrect may insert information about a different church. The prompt will ask for a credit card number which can be kept on file for future contributions.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lord Is My Shepherd

John Rutter (b. 1945)

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture,

and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

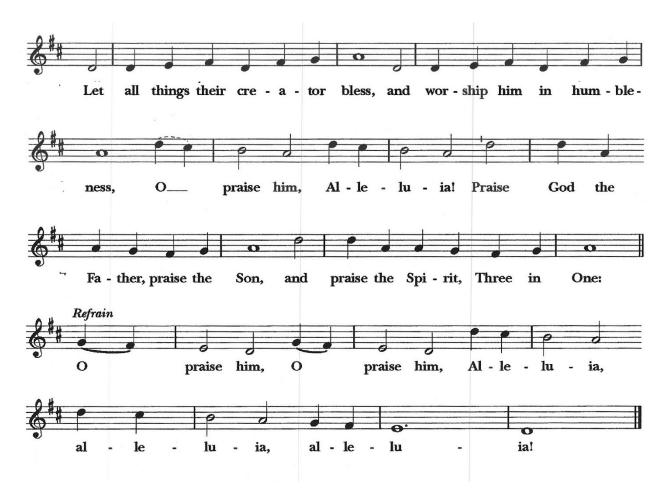
He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in paths of righteousness, For his name's sake.

Yea, thou I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:

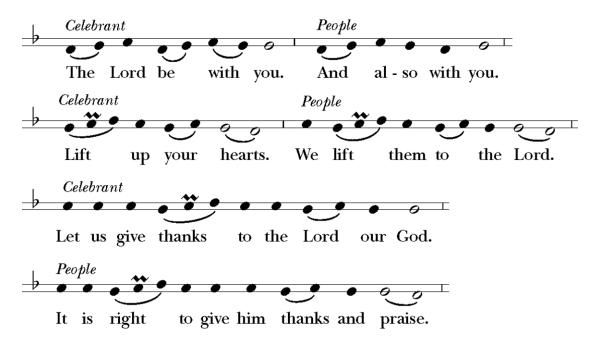
Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION 400, stanza 7



GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B

Sursum Corda S120



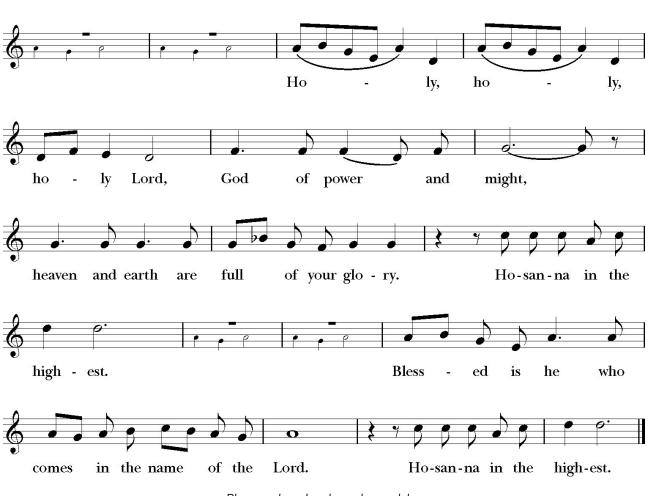
The Celebrant proceeds

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS \$128

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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:



Please stand or kneel, as able.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

William Mathias

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father:

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

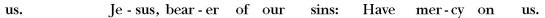
The Celebrant then continues

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

Celebrant and People

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. FRACTION ANTHEM \$155







INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Please come forward to receive communion at the Altar rail. If you wish to partake of the chalice, you may do so by intinction. Intinction is done by dipping a host into the wine, and is completely optional. If you prefer, it is perfectly fine to continue receiving the host only. If you are unable to come forward for communion, it will be brought to you in your pew.



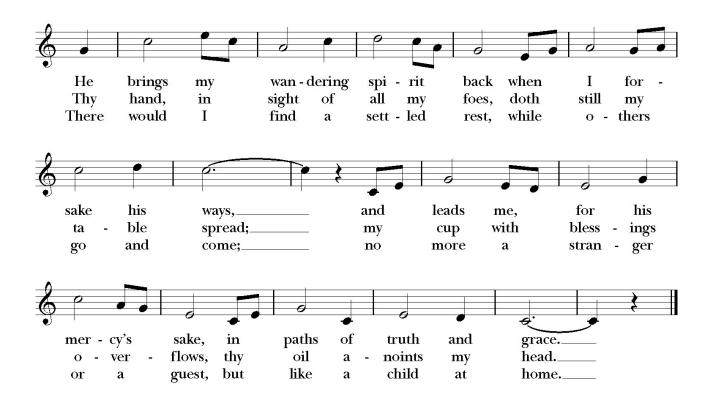
We offer a gluten-free bread option for those with dietary restrictions who wish to receive communion. To receive a gluten free wafer, please clasp your hands with palms facing each other when you come forward for communion.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion is prayed by those at home unable to partake of communion in person

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our hearts, our souls, and our minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.





The Celebrant distributes a communion kit saying,

Celebrant On behalf of God and Trinity Parish, we send forth these holy gifts that those who will be visited may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please kneel or stand as able.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING The priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen**.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

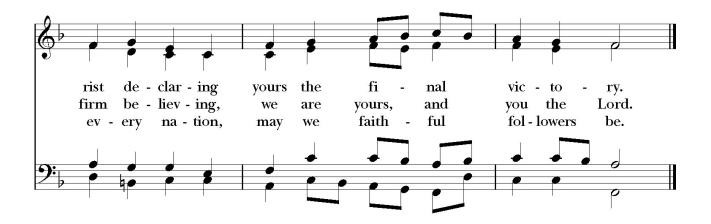
Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life, be with you always.

Amen.



The Fourth Sunday of Easter



DISMISSAL Officiant

OfficiantLet us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.PeopleThanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

VOLUNTARY

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall immediately following this service.

Service music printed from The Hymnal ©1982 Church Pension Fund. Used by permission. Additional licensing from OneLicense.net #A-705504.

Please note that June 4 is open to host (part/all) coffee hour: Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or online.



THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OF TRINITY THE HEART OF MIDTOWN April 30, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Trinity Episcopal Church | www.trinitymidtown.org 1015 Holman @ Main | 713-528-4100

Garden Club - Upcoming Opportunities

The Garden Club is Trinity's longest running ministry. We work to keep the church grounds beautiful and peaceful. We also sponsor and facilitate the making of Chrismons for our Chrismon tree. We would love to have you involved and we are actively inviting new members to the club. You don't have to have lots of gardening experience to join, we are happy to teach you!

- May 5th Monthly Club Meeting at 10am
- May 7th Annual self-guided garden tour with refreshments during coffee hour.
- June 2nd Chrismon making informational session!

For more information please contact Sylvia Drew at trymahjong@yahoo.com

LOTS Luncheon: May 9th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LOTS annual fundraising and celebration luncheon is just around the corner! Have you bought your ticket or purchased a table yet? Trinity's support of LOTS is crucial to their success and service in our community. For registration and sponsorships please click <u>here</u>.

Thy Kingdom Come: May 18th-28th

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journals will be available on campus. For general information click <u>here</u> and for family resources click <u>here</u>.

Trinity Meet and Greet: April 30th

Our Meet and Greet gatherings are held in the Rector's office and give guests and newcomers to Trinity an opportunity to enjoy casual conversation with the Rector in an informal setting. All meetings are at 11:45 am following the 10:30 am service.

Trinity Ministry Fair June 4th

The Ministry Fair is a wonderful way for members and visitors to meet and gather information about the various ministries, committees, mission trips, and educational opportunities that are available within the church. Each ministry will be showcased through the use of a display at a table or booth. Come join us after the 10:30 am service on June 4th for coffee hour and fellowship while you discover where God is leading you to serve!

Wear Orange Weekend - June 3rd-5th

In an effort to bring awareness to gun violence in America, we invite you to wear orange in support of gun reform in America on June 3rd–5th. There are many ways to participate during the designated weekend from events, to sharing on social media, to distributing information and much more. For more information and ways to be involved click <u>here</u>.

Episcopal Night at the Ballpark: July 28th

We invite you to mark your calendars for July 28th – Episcopal Night at the Ballpark. More information coming soon on how to purchase your ticket for a Trinity outing!

Sunday In-Person Services

8:00 am and 12:30 pm (Chapel) 10:30 am (Historic Church)

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, April 30th, 2023 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel) 9:30 am Education Hr for All – Adults in Smith Rm, Tweens in Fellowship Hall, Kids in Atrium 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church) 12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (Chapel) 8:00 pm Compline (Facebook)

Monday, May 1st, 2023 5:30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023

10:00am Sandwich Makers 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023

10:30 am Staff Meeting12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm5:30 pm Evening Prayer6:00 pm Healing Service (Zoom)

Thursday, May 4th, 2023

12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday, May 5th, 2023

12:15 pm Good Times AA meeting Y. Rm 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Saturday, May 6th, 2023

Our Weekly Zoom links can be found at https://www.trinitymidtown.org/zoom-withus/



PRAYERS

Our custom is to read aloud each week the names of those who request our prayers. We also remember in our Prayer Chain and Bulletin those who desire prayers. Please email to keep us informed. For information or comments about prayer names, please contact the Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero. If you would like to participate as a member of the prayer chain, please contact Norma Cooper.

Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Jill, Stephen, Emily, Van, Dick, Teresa, Victims of Violence, Ric, Barbara, Livia, Carolyn, Sylvia, Daniel, Kensington, Theorphilis, Lynn, Joyce, Bob, Cindy, Christine, David, Robert, Patty, Jose, Julie, Callie, Billie, Be, Graham, Debbie, Dana, Edgar, Gary, Maryanne, Sam, Samantha, Jarrett, Maddie, Harrison, Eugenia, Emilia, and Gaby.

For the faithful departed:

The Rev. Greg Buffone, all victims of gun violence and all who have perished from contracting the Coronavirus.

Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour

If you would like to make a flower dedication, you can sign up at www.trinitymidtown.org/flower-ministry/.

The next available dates: May 14th and May 28th. Mother's Day and Pentecost Sunday!



Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector rector@trinitymidtown.org

Rev. Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector associaterector@trinitymidtown.org

associate rector within tymic town.org

Rev. Dale Klitzke, Priest Associate dale.klitzke@gmail.com

Ryan Mire, Parish Administrator parishadministrator@TrinityMidtown.org

Lauren Santerre, Admin Assistant adminassistant@trinitymidtown.org

Alex Jones Organist/Choirmaster alexjonesorganist93@gmail.com

Carver Mathis, Youth Missioner youth@trinitymidtown.org

Pat Laubach, Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@trinitymidtown.org

Carol Turley, Membership Secretary membership@trinitymidtown.org

Larry Laubach, Treasurer finance@trinitymidtown.org



Paul Bower, Jacob Davidson, Rob Christie, and Saba Blanding





*Please note we will never ask you for money or gifts via email. Scams are circulating again, so please be aware and cautious.

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 4 pm Friday 9 am – 1 pm

If you have building concerns please email <u>frontoffice@trinitymidtown.org</u>. Thanks!



For more information on annual giving visit 2023 Stewardship Campaign.

Why is there no General Confession in Easter? Explanation by St. George's Church in Ontario, Canada

You may have noticed that the Confession – the part of the service where we collectively acknowledge that we make mistakes, that we hurt others, that we carry around guilt and doubt and regret, and then we receive God's forgiveness and assurance of healing – is absent during the Easter season. For some, this will feel like a major omission. Human beings are adept at weighing down our lives with feelings of powerlessness and inadequacy, anxiety for our shortcomings, gaping wounds of anger and hurt for how our relationships have been broken. This time in our worship to take stock, to lay down those burdens before God and to be reminded of God's faithfulness to, and love for, us can help many to feel lighter, freer, refreshed.

However, it is the tradition of the ancient church that the Confession is omitted during the season of Easter. It is not that Christians miraculously become perfect people during the seven weeks of Easter and therefore have no need of repentance and absolution. Instead, it is perhaps more appropriate to think of Easter as a rehearsal, a practicing of what a right relationship with God and one another actually looks like.

Whereas Lent is a time for honest and probing self-reflection, intentionality and care in how we use our time and resources, sparseness and restraint, Easter is a time for celebration, celebration of the fullness of God's kingdom, of a reality in which each of us lives in the light and love of God and reflects that light and love in our relationships with one another. In the fullness of God's Kingdom, we are free from the past brokenness and pain of our lives and our relationships are whole and life-giving. In the fullness of God's Kingdom, talk of sin and forgiveness no longer have a place, because we are healed.

We are not there yet. Brokenness and fragility are part of our story. We still look forward to the time when the promises of new life and healing offered on that first Easter morning will be fully realized. And some of us might continue to bring heavy hearts to worship through Easter. Individuals are encouraged to offer before God in prayer any confessions, any needs, any worries, regardless of whether it is Easter or not. However, our collective prayer changes at Easter in order that we might, as a community, tell this part of our story: *Christ is risen!* And we have glimpsed the Kingdom of God, where every tear is wiped away, where all hearts are mended, where we join with all of creation in receiving and sharing the good gifts God gives us.

A HISTORY OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Episcopal Church of Houston has existed as a house of worship and a center of its community for over a century. As such, it has adapted to the changing nature of the city, as Houston grew from a regional town of approximately 40,000 souls to a dynamic metropolitan giant, the fourth largest city in the United States. With a congregation that grew from a few founding members in the 1890s to several thousand parishioners at its peak, Trinity Church is an example of how spiritual people have contended with the challenges presented during a city's most crucial period of urban development.

Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street and Holman Avenue. That structure, designed by Ralph Adams Cram of Boston and William Ward Watkin of Houston became an architectural landmark constructed in the neo-Gothic style with Texas limestone and a 97 foot bell tower.

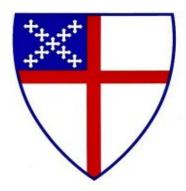
During the late 1910s and 1920s, Trinity entered an era of explosive growth, paralleling that of the city, and became an important center of the Episcopal faith. The congregation's many youth and adult activities were community events that attracted wide attention among the general populace. An integral part of its city, Trinity likewise maintained special relationships with Houstonians of other faiths. With a membership numbering 1,900 parishioners in 1930, Trinity emerged as the largest Episcopal parish in the Diocese of Texas and one of the largest in the nation.

After World War II, Houston's growth presented Trinity with perhaps its greatest challenge. As the city physically expanded into the new postwar suburbs, Trinity's membership began to decline. Rather than abandon its historic location, the congregation showed itself to be steadfast. Resurrecting itself from this period, Trinity reaffirmed its mission, this time as a beacon in the inner city where it has become a leading institution in the heart of Houston, determined to enhance the quality of urban life for everyone.

While our neighborhood has gone through many changes, the parish has remained steadfast, and actively ministers to a diverse congregation and to the poor in its midst. As the Midtown Houston neighborhood began redeveloping, starting in the early 2000s, Trinity Church has rededicated itself to its spiritual mission, and has become an active part of the Midtown area for music and other creative art expressions.







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