

# A SERVICE OF HEALING

AMBROSE OF MILAN  
BISHOP AND THEOLOGIAN  
397

DECEMBER 7, 2022  
6:00 p.m.



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

Alex Jones, Organist and Choirmaster  
April Sloan-Hubert, Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble  
Pelayo Parlade, Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble

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

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## The Word of God

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

*After a period of silence, the Minister then says the following Collects.*

Gracious God, we commend to your loving care all who suffer, especially those who come here seeking your healing grace for themselves and for others. Give them patience and hope in their distress; strengthen and uphold them in mind and body; and grant, by your intervention, that all your people may be made whole according to your desire, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

O God, you gave your servant Ambrose grace eloquently to proclaim your righteousness in the great congregation, and fearlessly to bear reproach for the honor of your Name: Mercifully grant to all bishops and pastors such excellence in preaching and faithfulness in ministering your Word, that your people may be partakers with them of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Lesson

### Ecclesiasticus 2: 7-18

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy;  
do not stray, or else you may fall.

You who fear the Lord, trust in him,  
and your reward will not be lost.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,  
for lasting joy and mercy.

Consider the generations of old and see:

has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed?

Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord and been forsaken?

Or has anyone called upon him and been neglected?

For the Lord is compassionate and merciful;

he forgives sins and saves in time of distress.

Woe to timid hearts and to slack hands,  
and to the sinner who walks a double path!

Woe to the faint-hearted who have no trust!

Therefore they will have no shelter.

Woe to you who have lost your nerve!

What will you do when the Lord's reckoning comes?

Those who fear the Lord do not disobey his words,  
and those who love him keep his ways.  
Those who fear the Lord seek to please him,  
and those who love him are filled with his law.  
Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts,  
and humble themselves before him.  
Let us fall into the hands of the Lord,  
but not into the hands of mortals;  
for equal to his majesty is his mercy,  
and equal to his name are his works.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Psalm 27: 5-11**

- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord \*  
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.

### **Second Lesson**

#### **1 John 4: 7-14**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Gospel

### Luke 12: 35-46

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful."

*Reader*    The Word of the Lord.

**People**    **Thanks be to God.**

## A Litany of Healing

*The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding*

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding. A Person appointed then leads the Litany*

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

All you Holy Angels, Archangels, and bodiless powers of heaven;

**Stand beside us to guide and guard us on our way.**

Holy Mary, Mother of God;

**Pray for us and the people of the world.**

For all who grieve the death of family, friends, and citizens;

**Give them courage and strength to meet the days ahead, O Lord, and the consolation of your love.**

Pour out your healing grace on all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are afraid, anxious, or overwhelmed, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Give peace, courage, and hope to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the sick and suffering, keep them safe and healthy, and grant them wisdom and skill, sympathy, and patience;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Open our eyes to see that you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and that our life and death are with each other;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Give us compassion for those in need, patience in this time of distress in our country, and love for our neighbors;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Let our hearts be not afraid;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does wonders:

**You have declared your power among the peoples.**

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

**And in your light we see light.**

Let us pray:

*A period of silence follows.*

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

### **Minister and People:**

**God of all mercy,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,  
and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*The Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## Prayers for Healing

*The minister may invite each person to give her or his name and any particular request for prayer.  
The minister then prays silently, then prays aloud using one of the following forms or similar words.*

I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, praying you will be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit. Amen.

*After all are anointed*

May the God who goes before you through desert places by night and by day be your companion and guide; may your journey be with the saints; may the Holy Spirit be your strength, and Christ your clothing of light, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Blessing

May God the Father bless us, God the Son heal us, God the Holy Spirit give us strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard our bodies, save our souls, and bring us safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

## Dismissal

*Officiant*  
**People**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Ambrose of Milan, Bishop and Theologian

Ambrose was the son of a Roman governor in Gaul, and in 373, he himself was governor in Upper Italy. Though brought up in a Christian family, Ambrose had not been baptized. He became involved in the election of a Bishop of Milan only as mediator between the battling factions of Arians and orthodox Christians. The election was important, because the victorious party would control the powerful see of Milan.

Ambrose exhorted the nearly riotous mob to keep the peace and to obey the law. Suddenly both sides raised the cry, "Ambrose shall be our bishop!" He protested, but the people persisted. Hastily baptized, he was ordained bishop on December 7th, 373.

Ambrose rapidly won renown as a defender of orthodoxy against Arianism and as a statesman of the church. He was also a skillful hymnodist. He introduced antiphonal chanting to enrich the liturgy and wrote straightforward, practical discourses to educate his people in such matters of doctrine as Baptism, the Trinity, the Eucharist, and the Person of Christ. His persuasive preaching was an important factor in the conversion of Augustine of Hippo.

Ambrose did not fear to rebuke emperors, including the hot-headed Theodosius, whom he forced to do public penance for the slaughter of several thousand citizens of Salonika. He preached passionate sermons in defense of the poor and the needy. In a homily on Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21) he declares: "The story of Naboth is an old one, but it is repeated every day. Who among the rich does not daily covet the goods of others? Who among the wealthy does not make every effort to drive the poor person out from his little plot and turn the needy out from the boundaries of his ancestral fields? Who is satisfied with what is his? What rich person's thoughts are not preoccupied with his neighbor's possessions? It is not one Ahab who was born, therefore, but— what is worse—Ahab is born every day, and never does he die as far as this world is concerned. For each one who dies there are many others who rise up; there are more who steal property than who lose it...How far, O rich, will you extend your mad greed?"

A meditation attributed to him includes these words: "Lord Jesus Christ, you are for me medicine when I am sick; you are my strength when I need help; you are life itself when I fear death; you are the way when I long for heaven; you are light when all is dark; you are my food when I need nourishment." Among hymns attributed to Ambrose are "The eternal gifts of Christ the King" (The Hymnal 1982, #233; #234), "O Splendor of God's glory bright" (#5), and a series of hymns for the daily office.

from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018*, page 614







## 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.

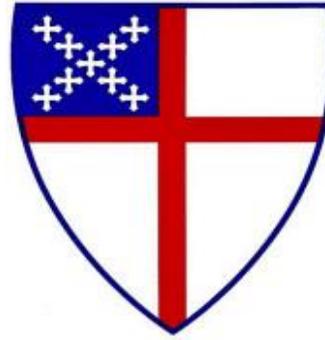
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street 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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