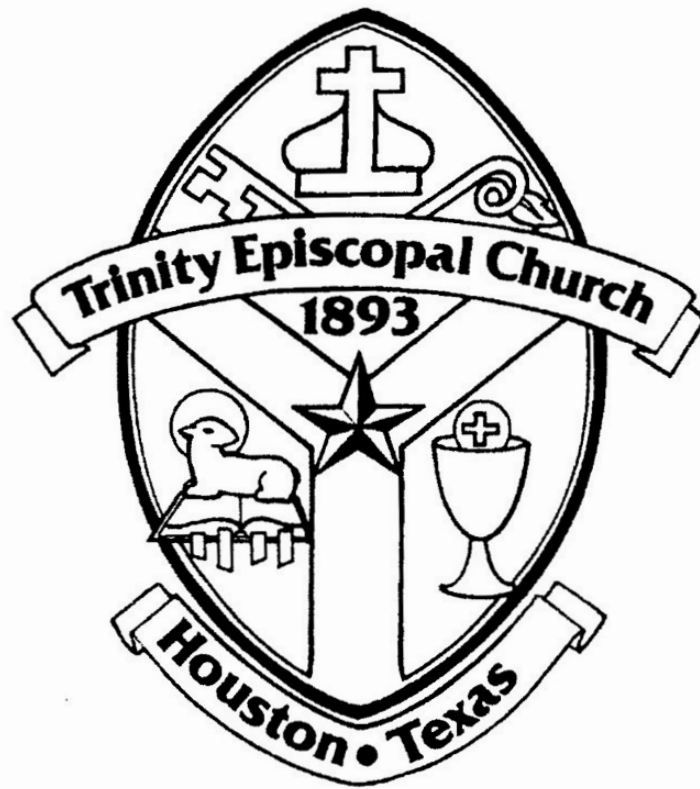


# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023  
11:00 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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## 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

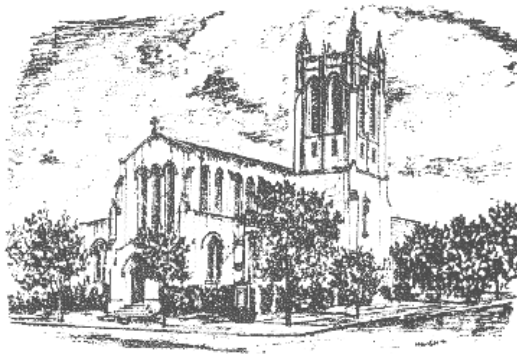
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Teddy Adams, *Chancellor*  
Dana Gannon, *Assistant Chancellor*  
Larry Laubach, *Treasurer*  
Steve Lee, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Ben Blanding, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Samantha Rainman, *Assistant Clerk of the Vestry*

## LAY MINISTERS SERVING TODAY

Lector: Donald Hackler  
Prayers: Norma Cooper  
LEMs: Norma Cooper, Ron Mailloux  
Acolytes: L. Blanding, D. Villarreal  
Ushers: Ben Blanding, Larry Laubach  
Verger: Christian Bearup  
Altar Guild: Madeline Mauk, Jeanne Sommerfeld, Linda Davenport  
Audio Visual: Jeremy Velasquez  
Vestry of the Day: John Merullo

The High Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Phil Turley  
by Carol Turley.



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Instagram  
<https://instagram.com/trinityepiscopalmidtown>

Youtube  
<https://www.youtube.com/trinityepiscopalchurch>



# HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

11:00 a.m. Historic Church

*Please enter in a spirit of prayerful contemplation.*

VOLUNTARY

## The Liturgy of the Word

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Blanding family

*Please stand as able.*

HYMN IN PROCESSION 324

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

Picardy



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and  
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on  
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard  
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -  
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man  
on the way, as the Light of Light de -  
sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood  
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,  
Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,  
he will give to all the faith - ful  
that the powers of hell may va - nish  
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"



our full hom - age to de - mand.  
his own self for heaven - ly food.  
as the dark - ness clears a way.  
Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, page 355

*Officiant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, page 355

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

**People** Amen.

CANTICLE Kyrie Eleison

Harold Darke  
from *Communion Service in A Minor*

*(sung by the choir)*

Kyrie, eleison  
Christe, eleison  
Kyrie, eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ, have mercy upon us,  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
"I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

## THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 16: 25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

Please stand as able.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE 53

Once he came in blessing

Gottes Sohn ist kommen



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;  
 2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us  
 3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,  
 4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.



came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;  
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:  
 but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,  
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;



bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.  
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.  
 he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.  
 let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1: 26-38

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector

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 I

BCP, page 383

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

*Reader* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

*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 the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader* For [the Most Reverend Brent Harry Alawas, and the Episcopal Church in the Philippines](#); for [St. Francis', Houston](#); [St. John the Divine, Houston](#); and [St. Martin's, Houston](#); and for the [Wednesday Healing Service](#), let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader* For Joseph our president, Kamala our vice-president, Greg our governor, Lina our county judge, Sylvester our mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader* For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader* For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.



**People** **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader* For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader* For [Bill, Nick, Bob, Dale, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Donna, Jason, Carol, Clyde, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Monica, Wally, Dorothy, Daniel, Gladys, and Brenda](#), let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader* For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader* God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. Remembering [especially Chester Joseph Stasney, Jr., Denise Ray, Don Olson, Robert Vaughan, Phil Turley, the victims of war in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, and all victims of gun violence](#), may we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints.

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader* For all the blessings of this life, especially for [Colette, Christine, Stephen, Abigail, Ellora, and Tony](#) as they celebrate their birthdays, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader* For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader* That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Reader* In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**People** **To thee, O Lord our God.**

CONFESSIOIN BCP, page 360  
*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

ABSOLUTION BCP, page 360  
*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*Please stand as able.*

THE PEACE

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the Name of the Lord.*

*Please be seated.*

BLESSING OF 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](http://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

*This Is the Truth Sent from Above*  
*(sung by the choir)*

*arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams*  
*(1872-1958)*

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love;  
Therefore don't turn me from the door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

And at this season of the year  
Our blest redeemer did appear,  
And here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands he did teach.

The first thing that I will relate,  
That God at first did man create;  
The next thing which to you I tell  
Woman was made with him to dwell

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run:  
That he'd redeem us by his Son.

Please stand as able.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION 74, stanza 4

Valet will ich dir geben

4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of  
 God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they  
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And  
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us  
 bear it so he can make us free!

GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B

SURSUM CORDA S120

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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.

*The Celebrant proceeds*

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

Harold Darke  
Communion Service in A Minor

*(sung by the choir)*

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.

*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.

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 S154

Douglas Hurd

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*(sung by the choir)*

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.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome to come participate in Holy Communion. If for any reason you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms across your chest for a blessing.*

*Our tradition is to receive both bread and wine, sharing in the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips, or you may "intinct" by dipping the wafer into the chalice. If you prefer, you may also receive the bread only: After consuming the wafer, simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine.*

*If you do not wish to "intinct" from the common cup, there will be a third chalice, for intinction only, available in the baptistery. If you wish to partake of this chalice, please proceed to the baptistery after receiving a wafer from the priest .*

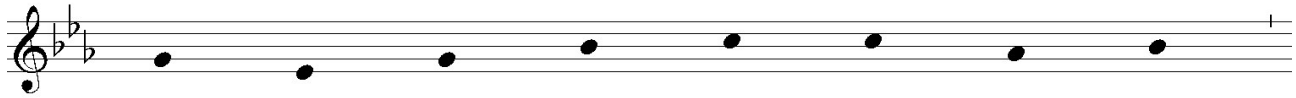


*We offer a gluten-free bread option for those with dietary restrictions who wish to receive communion. To receive a gluten free wafer, please clasp your hands with palms facing each other when the priest administering the bread approaches you.*

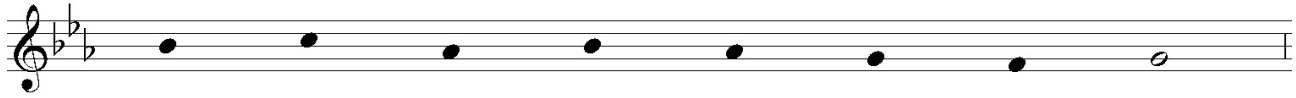
## PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

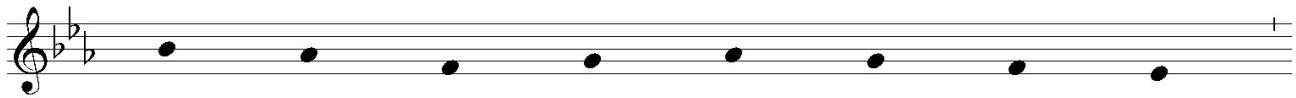
In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, 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.



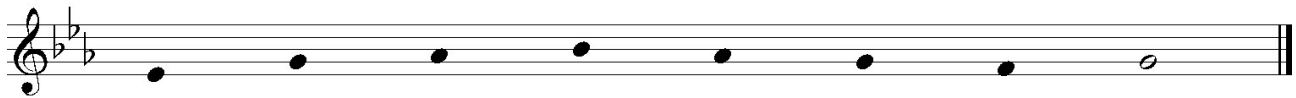
1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
 4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
 5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
 \* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
 5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

*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.**

THE BLESSING

Presider May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

**People Amen.**

Presider May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

**People Amen.**

Presider May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

**People Amen.**

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

**People Amen.**

*Please stand as able*

HYMN IN PROCESSION 66

*Come, thou long expected Jesus*

Stuttgart

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



DISMISSAL

Officiant

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

*There will be no coffee hour. We will see you at 6:00 pm or 10:00 pm tonight!*

*Service music printed from The Hymnal ©1982*

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Advent is the first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for “coming”. The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord’s nativity, and for the final coming of Christ “in power and glory.”











## 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.

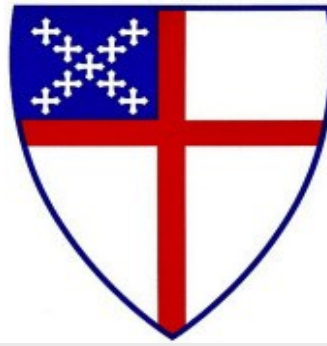
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity is located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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





### STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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