

# A SERVICE OF HEALING

ELIZABETH ANN SETON  
MONASTIC AND EDUCATOR  
1821  
VIGIL

JANUARY 3, 2024  
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**

Give us grace, O God, to love you in all things and above all things; that, following the example of your servant Elizabeth Ann Seton, we might express our love for you in the service of others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## First Lesson

### 2 Esdras 2: 15-24

"Mother, embrace your children; bring them up with gladness, as does a dove; strengthen their feet, because I have chosen you, says the Lord. And I will raise up the dead from their places, and bring them out from their tombs, because I recognize my name in them. Do not fear, mother of children, for I have chosen you, says the Lord. I will send you help, my servants Isaiah and Jeremiah. According to their counsel I have consecrated and prepared for you twelve trees loaded with various fruits, and the same number of springs flowing with milk and honey, and seven mighty mountains on which roses and lilies grow; by these I will fill your children with joy.

"Guard the rights of the widow, secure justice for the ward, give to the needy, defend the orphan, clothe the naked, care for the injured and the weak, do not ridicule the lame, protect the maimed, and let the blind have a vision of my splendor. Protect the old and the young within your walls. When you find any who are dead, commit them to the grave and mark it, and I will give you the first place in my resurrection. Pause and be quiet, my people, because your rest will come."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## Psalms 119: 105-112

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet \*  
and a light upon my path.

- 106 I have sworn and am determined \*  
to keep your righteous judgments.
- 107 I am deeply troubled; \*  
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.
- 108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, \*  
and teach me your judgments.
- 109 My life is always in my hand, \*  
yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have set a trap for me, \*  
but I have not strayed from your commandments.
- 111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; \*  
truly, they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes \*  
for ever and to the end.

## Second Lesson

### Galatians 3: 23-25; 4: 4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

## The Gospel

### Luke 14: 15-23

One of the dinner guests said to Jesus, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.'" Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.'"

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

## **Elizabeth Ann Seton, Monastic and Educator**

Elizabeth Ann Seton was the founder of the Sisters of Charity, the first community of sisters established in the United States.

Elizabeth was born in New York City on August 28, 1774, and was raised as an Episcopalian. She endured a turbulent childhood and suffered severe bouts of depression, but persevered by immersing herself in poetry, piano lessons, and devoted participation in the Episcopal Church. From a young age, she desired to help the sick and poor. In 1795 she married William Seton, and their family came to include five children. During this time, she also founded the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children.

In 1801, however, the family business went bankrupt. In 1803, her husband developed symptoms of tuberculosis, and they set sail for Italy in the hopes that the warm climate might cure his disease. The Italian authorities, fearing yellow fever, quarantined them in a cold stone hospital for the dying. William soon died and left Elizabeth a young widow with five children and few resources. While struggling with these losses, she was befriended by Roman Catholics and, as a result, was drawn to the Catholic Church.

Returning to New York, she encountered bitter opposition from her Episcopalian family for her new religious leanings. With five children to support, she found herself alone and in financial straits. She turned to Catholic clergy for support and, in 1805, she formally became a member of the Catholic Church.

In 1806, she met Father Louis Dubourg, who wanted to start a congregation of women religious, patterned after the French Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. In 1809 Elizabeth took vows and became "Mother Seton" to a small community of seven women, known as the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph, who were dedicated to teaching. The sisters were given land in rural Maryland and, in 1810, they opened Saint Joseph's Free School to educate needy girls. The sisters intertwined social ministry, education, and religious formation in all of their varied works. Out of the pioneering work of Elizabeth Seton, five independent communities of the Sisters of Charity now exist, offering ministry and care for the most vulnerable.

Elizabeth Ann Seton remained the superior of the Sisters of Charity until her death on January 4, 1821.

The legacy of the Sisters of Charity has left a lasting impact on the Episcopal Church as well as on the Catholic Church. The earliest Anglican religious orders for women used the rule of the Sisters of Charity as the basis for their own rules, and there have been Sisters of Charity in the Anglican Communion since 1869.

from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022*, page 24









## 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.

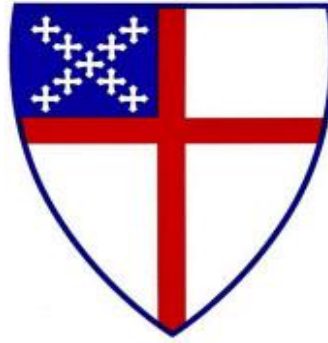
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street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





### STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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*Trinity Episcopal Church*  
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