

# A SERVICE OF HEALING

MARCELLA OF ROME  
MONASTIC AND SCHOLAR  
410

JANUARY 31, 2024  
6:00 p.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  
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***

# A Public Service of Healing

Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Monastic and Educator  
1821  
Vigil

January 31, 2024

## 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, who satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry with good things: Grant that we, like your servant Marcella, may hunger and thirst after you above the vain pomp and glory of the world, and delight in your word above all manner of riches; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Lesson

### 1 Kings 17: 8-16

The word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 124

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

## Second Lesson

### 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Gospel

### Mark 12: 41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

*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.**

## **Marcella of Rome, Monastic and Scholar**

“How much virtue and ability, how much holiness and purity I found in her,” said Jerome of Marcella, “I am afraid to say, lest I may exceed the bounds of men’s belief.” Marcella was born in Rome in 325 to Albina, a noblewoman noted for her piety and learning. When Marcella was a child, her mother invited Athanasius of Alexandria to sojourn in her home during his exile. At his feet, Marcella studied the lives of the holy monastics of the Thebaid, and Athanasius gave her a copy of his Life of Antony.

After being widowed as a young woman, Marcella devoted herself to the asceticism of Antony. Trading her costly array for a simple brown dress, she made her home into a house of prayer and refuge. Her example inspired other women to form a community, sometimes called the Brown Dress Society, that was devoted to chastity, poverty, fasting, prayer, studying the scriptures, and serving the poor and needy. Together with Paula (September 28), Marcella is one of the mothers of Roman monasticism.

In 382, Pope Damasus invited Jerome to Rome, where he lodged in Marcella's Aventine Hill estate. During those three years a friendship developed between Marcella, Paula, and Jerome, without which Jerome's Latin translation of the scriptures (later called the Vulgate) would not have been written. Marcella and Paula were both remarkably erudite; Jerome found in them not only friends but colleagues with whom to discuss the challenges of interpreting and translating the scriptures. After the death of Damasus, Jerome, joined by Paula and her daughter Eustochium, left for Jerusalem; although they urged Marcella to join them, she was determined to remain in Rome. She and Jerome corresponded for the remainder of her life. After his departure, scholars came to her to seek her insight on obscure matters in the Greek and Hebrew scriptures.

In 410 the Visigoths invaded Rome. Alaric's soldiers pillaged Marcella's home in search of wealth. They scourged the eighty-five-year-old woman, demanding that she surrender her hidden treasures, all of which she had long since spent in charity. She only pleaded with the soldiers not to harm her protégé Principia. They were both eventually taken to St. Paul's Church, which had been designated a sanctuary. The following day, Marcella died in Principia's arms.

from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022*, page 66



## THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OF TRINITY THE HEART OF MIDTOWN  
January 28, 2024 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

Trinity Episcopal Church | [www.trinitymidtown.org](http://www.trinitymidtown.org)  
1015 Holman @ Main | 713-528-4100

### Sunday In-Person Services

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

### Reproductive Freedom Workshop – January 27th, 10am

Join Texas Freedom Network and Shan Shaffer for a workshop on becoming a Reproductive Freedom Congregation. Shan will explore how even progressive faith communities perpetuate silence around reproductive health issues. This workshop will present ways to become inclusive and welcoming of all women, providing safe space to worship and share their reproductive stories. Please RSVP [here](#).

### Annual Meeting – January 28th 9:15am–10:15 am

Please plan to join us for our Annual Parish Meeting this Sunday from 9:15am–10:15 am in the fellowship hall. We will have some brief presentations from the Vestry, Ministry heads, and Clergy on various church matters including our annual giving report, church budget, voting for new vestry, 2024 plans, and more! A simple breakfast will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Souperbowl of Caring– January 28th – Feb. 11th

Every year Trinity participates in the SouperBowl of Caring. The youth of Trinity are asking you to once again help Tackle Hunger in 2024! You are invited to bring your donations during our drive from Jan. 28th – Feb. 11th. Donations can be dropped in the basket at the back of the sanctuary. For large donations please contact Mary Johns for pickup at 713-523-7605. Additionally, you may give a monetary donation via the EAC website or email [info@eachouston.org](mailto:info@eachouston.org).

### Pub Theology – January 31st, 7pm at The Mucky Duck

Please plan to join us for our first Pub Theology of 2024! We look forward to seeing you at The Mucky Duck at 7pm for fellowship, discussion, and prayer!

### Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Dinner – February 13, 6pm

Please plan to join us on Tuesday, Feb. 13th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Pancake Dinner. We look forward to seeing you there for fellowship, food, and fun as we prepare for Lent 2024. To help volunteer please email Rev. Luz at [associaterector@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:associaterector@trinitymidtown.org).

### Ash Wednesday – February 14th

Our season of Lent will begin on Feb. 14th. We will have our three services for Ash Wednesday at 7am, 12pm, and 7pm. We will also have our Ashes to Go from 10am–4pm that day. We encourage you to stop by or join us online for our Ash Wednesday services and imposition of ashes.

### Please Mark Your Calendars!

- February 23 – Lenten Soup and Study: Soul Care in an Election Year
- March 16 – Lenten Quiet Half-Day Retreat
- March 19 – Friends of Iman Iftar
- March 26 – Book Discussion with Rudy Rasmus
- April 7 – Family Picnic
- April 12–14 – All Parish Retreat, Camp Allen

[More information available in the LENT 2024 Guide.](#)

### THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

#### Sunday, Jan 28th, 2024

7:30am – 1:30pm Nursery Open  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel)  
9:00 am Annual Parish Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church)  
11:45 am Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)  
12:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III (Chapel)  
8:00 pm Compline (Facebook)

#### Monday, January 29th, 2024

12:00pm Yoga (Atrium 2)  
5:30pm Evening Prayer

#### Tuesday, January 30th, 2024

12:00pm The Listening Post  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer

#### Wednesday, January 31st, 2024

10:30 am Staff Meeting (Weekly)  
12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer  
6:00 pm Healing Service  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Pub Theology, The Mucky Duck

#### Thursday, February 1st, 2024

12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)  
6:30pm Listening Heart (Masterson)

#### Friday, February 2nd, 2024

10:00am Trinity Garden Club (Smith)  
12:15 pm Good Times AA (Masterson)  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church)

#### Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

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.

Bill, Nick, Bob, Dale, Edith, Graeme, Christopher, Donna, Jason, Clyde, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Monica, Wally, Dorothy, Daniel, Brenda, Pamela, Danya, Sylvia, Ella, Julie, Leland, Teddy, Pam, Randy, Gary, Allegra, Gareth, Kazi, Aurora, Jimmie, Tom, Stephen, Emily, Van, Dick, Victims of Violence, Ric, Barbara, Sylvia, Joyce, Bob, David, Robert, Susan, Cindy, Patty, Dana, Emilia, Gaby, Florence, Carolyn, Rick, Charles, Harrison, Kathy, Erma, Mary, Chris, Guillermo, Holly, Ray, Barbara, Howard, Claudie, Romy, Bryce, Rose, Bart, Marie.

### For the faithful departed:

The victims of war in Israel, Palestine and Ukraine and all victims of gun violence.

**Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector**  
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**Rev. Luz Cabrera Montes, Associate Rector**  
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**Rev. Dale Klitzke, Priest Associate**  
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**Alex Jones Organist/Choirmaster**  
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**Pat Laubach, Volunteer Coordinator**  
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**Carol Turley, Membership Secretary**  
membership@trinitymidtown.org

**Larry Laubach, Treasurer**  
finance@trinitymidtown.org

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

### Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour

If you would like to make a flower dedication, you can sign up at [www.trinitymidtown.org/flower-ministry/](http://www.trinitymidtown.org/flower-ministry/).  
The next available dates: Feb. 4th and 11th.



Sign-ups for coffee hour hosts are available, please signup online to volunteer [here](#) or scan QR code below. For questions or further information please contact Jamie Chambers: [jamielynnchambers@hotmail.com](mailto:jamielynnchambers@hotmail.com) or call/text at 832-370-7155 if you need assistance.

Next available dates: Feb. 4th, 11th, and 18th.



*Happy Birthday!*

Skyler Obregon, Lovette Browne



@trinitychurchhouston



@trinityepiscopalmidtown



@trinityepiscopalchurch



Let's Connect | [www.trinitymidtown.org](http://www.trinitymidtown.org)

### Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 3 pm

Friday 9 am – 1 pm

If you have building concerns please email [parishadministrator@trinitymidtown.org](mailto:parishadministrator@trinitymidtown.org).



For more information on annual giving visit [www.trinitymidtown.org/give](http://www.trinitymidtown.org/give).



## 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.

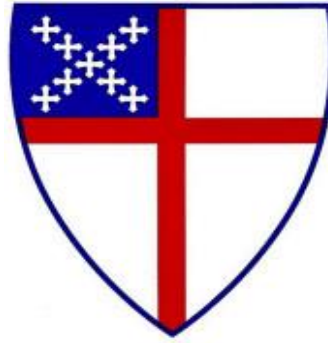
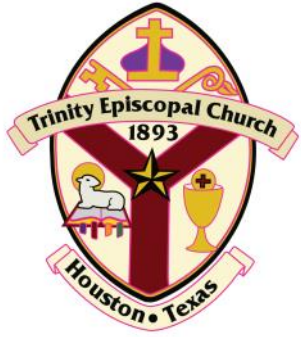
Founded in 1893 as a mission of Christ Church, Houston's first Episcopal church, Trinity located southwest of downtown. After a quarter of a century of existence in wooden buildings, Trinity parish built its present imposing structure (1917 - 1921) in Houston's South End, at the corner of Main Street 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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**PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.**

*Trinity Episcopal Church*  
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