



ORDER OF SERVICE

RITE II

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 31, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you.

WELCOME TO TRINITY

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church. We hope that you will feel the presence of God in this holy space. We believe that you will also find God in the community of people who worship here. Trinity is rich in the traditions of the Episcopal Church, and it is our prayer that you will feel warmly welcomed. May this place be to you a source of strength and spiritual renewal. May you also find it a place where all people are accepted. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you!

THE WORD OF GOD

Organ Voluntary: Aria

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Hymn 1 Father, we praise thee

Christe sanctorum



1 Fa - ther, we praise thee, now the night is
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for thy
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual



o - ver, ac - tive and watch - ful, stand we all be -
man - sions; ban - ish our weak - ness, health and whole - ness
Spi - rit, Trin - i - ty bless - ed, send us thy sal -



fore thee; sing - ing we of - fer prayer and med - i -
send - ing; bring us to hea - ven, where thy saints u -
va - tion; thine is the glo - ry, gleam - ing and re -



ta - tion: thus we a - dore thee.
nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.
sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

Words: Latin, 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Music: melody from *Antiphoner*, 1681

Celebrant

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

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

Collect for Purity

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. **Amen.**

Glo-ry to you, — Lord God of our fa - thers; — you are wor - thy of
 praise; glo-ry to you. — Glo-ry to you — for the ra - di - ance
 of your ho - ly Name; we will praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. —
 Glo-ry to you — in the splen - dor of your tem - ple; — on the throne of your
 ma - jes - ty, glo-ry to you. — Glo-ry to you. seat - ed bet - ween the
 Cher - u - bim; — we will praise you and high ly ex - alt you for ev - er. —
 Glo-ry to you, — be - hold - ing the depths; — in the high vault of hea - ven, glo-ry to
 you. — Glo-ry to you, — Fa - ther, Son — and Ho - ly Spi - rit; —
 — we will praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. —

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A Reading from Deuteronomy.

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

Psalm 111

Confitebor tibi

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.

**4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.

**8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.**

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.

**10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Church at Corinth.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

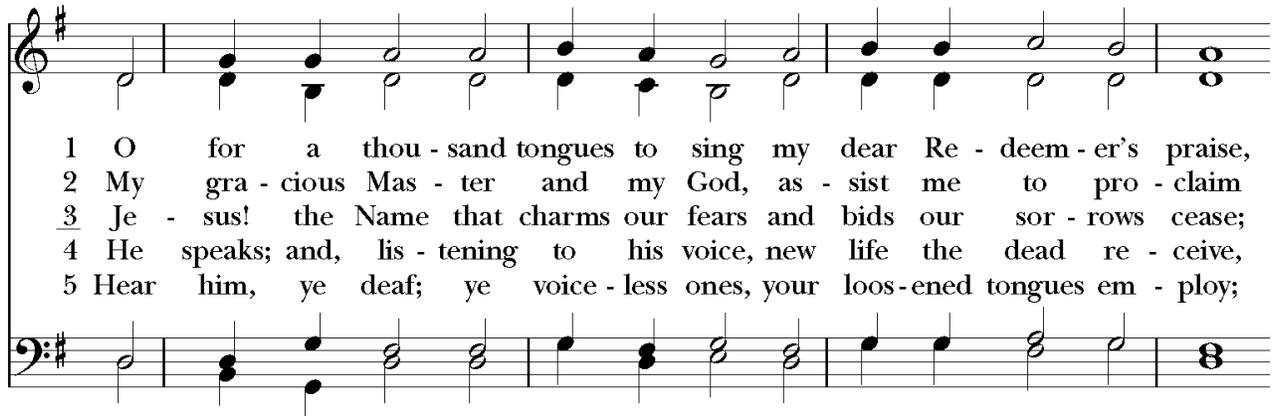
Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

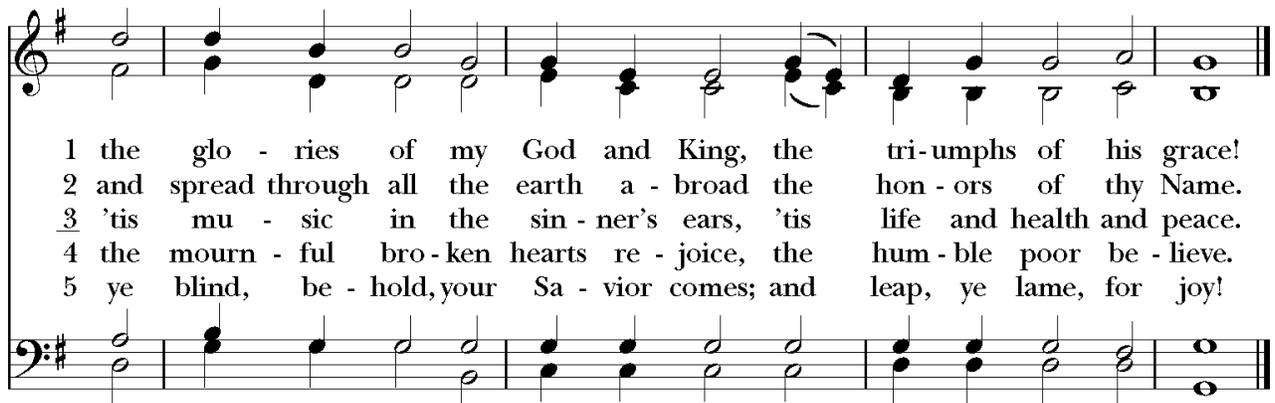
Sequence

Hymn 493 O for a thousand tongues to sing

Azmon



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heayen.

Words Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adopt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Bert Bibens

In the collect that we prayed at the beginning of this service, we heard the words, "God governs all things in heaven and on earth." Those words slipped by so fast, I'm not sure we really listened to what they were saying. God doesn't govern SOME things, God governs ALL things! And no matter what types of legislation may come from political representatives...no matter what ordinances might be passed by a council of leaders...and no matter what kings and queens might ordain as the new versions of right and wrong, NO HUMAN has the power (real or imagined) to usurp the commandments of God, the Almighty, the Holy One and Only. Let's start and end with that much...which I think in our spiritual heart of hearts, we can all agree is a factual statement. God governs all things in heaven and on earth.

During the pandemic, Susan and I have been bingeing "The Crown" on Netflix. Some really good history lessons there, among other things, but I'm reminded of something that I learned for the first time, while watching. The Sovereign of England is considered by many, as not only the "Head of the Church of England", but also seen as a direct authority figure, in the chain of command that begins with God. Wow!! I would have to abdicate, if someone tried to lay that at my feet. And, I know about a thousand people that would agree, that I shouldn't be the one translating exactly what God would say or do in certain circumstances! That is scary stuff. And, a little presumptuous, if you don't mind my saying so! The Psalm passage that we just read, says it this way... "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". Telling another what we think God would want us to do, versus putting words in the mouth of the Almighty...this is a tightrope walk that all clergy face in the writing of their sermons, and all world leaders need to think about long and hard. Get it right, and you might be prophet material...get it wrong and you are a heretic and in deep doo-doo.

But, we love being right, don't we? It's interesting, because Jesus is constantly speaking in the scriptures about building others up, and fixing what's wrong with society...yet, when we say to someone else, "I'm right and you're wrong", it's really more about winning vs. losing, than it is about repairing the damages in the lives and situations around us, isn't it? I think that real growth as a person stems from being less interested in BEING right, and more interested in DOING right! The more comfortable we can become with admitting that we've learned something new, or that we were mistaken about the subject at hand, the sooner we can just focus on the task of helping others, and making our world a

better place. I've just been introduced to a new book, and I believe the title is *I Think You're Wrong, but I'm Listening*. I love that sentiment! Wouldn't it be great if we could all proceed like that with openness and humor, instead of closed-mindedness and vitriol?

When Jesus healed the man with the unclean spirit, the people reportedly said, "What is this? A new teaching with authority!" Translation, "Who is this guy?!?" We all have a love/hate relationship with authority, don't we? We hate the authorities, whenever we're being told to do something we don't WANT to do...and we love the authorities, when they hand us money, or tell us good news that we want to hear. The singer, John Mellencamp puts it this way, "I fight authority, but authority always wins." It's true, right? It's almost like we're wired to push back, if someone in authority tells us to do something that doesn't seem to make sense!

There is even a yellow flag that has made a comeback since colonial times...I'm sure you've seen it...it says "Don't Tread on Me". And, here's where you poor folks get a dose of my "minor in social studies" background...When it was popularized a couple hundred years ago, the message of that flag was all about England not trying to push the colonists around. I just wish it would have originally been captioned, Don't Tread on Us! Because the snake that is pictured, represented the whole group of folks who had come to this new world, not the individual rights or freedoms, that they were just beginning to enjoy.

In our passage from 1st Corinthians, we hear the admonition, "Take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak." My freedom ends, where your freedom begins, and nothing that I freely do, should keep you from feeling safe, secure and cared for. If I freely drive 90 mph down Yale Avenue and wipe out 15 other drivers in the process, that's simply not fair. If I throw a loud, late night party which spills out into my yard, it's simply not fair, if you are trying to get some sleep at your house! My freedoms shouldn't stand between you and the food you need to survive, or the safety to live and raise your family without fear of danger, or your access to God's love and assurances.

In addition, we sometimes forget that freedom is one of God's greatest gifts to us! I happen to believe that God loves our freedom, even more than we do. "Wait a minute (you might say), God loves freedom even more than I do?" Yep. Here's how I know. God loves us so much, that we have been set totally free to live life as well (or as poorly) as we might choose. God doesn't operate as a puppeteer, keeping me from driving too fast...nor does God apply force when I'm starting to say something belittling or stupid to my neighbor. The Almighty doesn't stop me from pushing my way to the front of the line at Reasor's, even though it isn't my turn. Why? It's so simple. We say all the time, that if you love someone set them free. You can't force folks to love you, so why try? If they love you, they'll come back. Ever tried to force a pet to sit on your lap, if they don't want to? Doesn't work. It's only genuine, if they choose to come over in search of affection. Same with us and God. God has set us COMPLETELY free, in this lifetime, so that when we love God, and do the right things, it will be totally genuine. But, some freedom doesn't cut it. It's got to be complete, or it doesn't count. So, we have been set free to either be a saint or a sinner...a gentleman or a rogue...friendly or hateful...hospitable or exclusive...warm or cold...all our own personal choices!

I'm sure that several of you watched the inauguration a little over a week ago. One of the moments that brought tears to my eyes was the recitation of a beautiful poem, by a 22-year-old phenom named Amanda Gorman. The line went like this... "The norms and notions of what 'just' is, isn't always Justice". Sometimes as creatures of this planet, we get confused, and think that because the majority says that something is so, then it must really be. But, the majority isn't always correct...correct? The Bible...that pesky bestseller that tends to be the measure of right and wrong, says this (also in Psalm 111) "The works of His hands are faithfulness and justice." So, the same should be true for those of us that call ourselves "followers"...the works of our hands are to be faithfulness and justice! The hungry should be fed...the prisoner visited...the lonely invited...the poor assisted...the sad cheered up...the sick offered medicine...the homeless some shelter...the orphans a hug.

We know these are the right things to do, so why do we stop short of doing them? God loves us so much, and we're simply supposed to pass it on!

Let me repeat what I shared at the beginning. "God governs ALL things in heaven and on earth!" Maybe we could start living, as if we believed that to be true. Amen

The 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.**

Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church.
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our presiding Bishop; Poulson, our own Bishop; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Joseph our President, Kevin our Governor, G.T. our Mayor, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on (Barbara Sue; Odell; Nancy; Paulette; Alicia; Jeremy; Marjoree; Danny; Teresa; Shirley; Philippe; Marie; Taylor; Jim and Mary; Elaine and Danny; Cameron; Alia; Kennetha; Finley; Susan, Diane, David and Katie; Jo; Mary; Camdon; Bruce; Madison; David; Nancy; Colby; Mary; Rob; George; Nancy; Claudia; John; James; Jim; Stephan; Jack; Kimberly; and All Medical and Cleaning Staffs;
_____), and all those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed (including Ruth Barnes Boatright) eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Silence

Let us pray for our needs and those of others, either silently or aloud.

The People may add their own petitions

We give thanks for all who are worshipping with us today, especially for those worshipping with us for the first time.

The Deacon says

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and 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.**

The Priest stands and says.

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.

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

**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.**

The Peace

*Celebrant
People*

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

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

Announcements

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

Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Anthem: O Saviour of the World

John Goss (1800-1880)

O Saviour of the World, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 530 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

Gott sei Dank

1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
 2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
 3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
 4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
 5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,

1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
 2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
 3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
 4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
 5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

Words: Jonathan Friedrich Mah(1774-William Farlander (1898-1952)
 and Charles Windfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt. st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)
 Music: melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary: Improvisation

Clergy: The Reverend Dr. W. Lee Domenick, *Rector*; The Reverend Cheryl Harder, *Associate Rector*; The Reverend Chris Cole, *Curate*; The Reverend Deborah Underwood, *Deacon*; The Reverend Bert Bibens, *Deacon*; The Reverend Noel Doherty, *Assisting Clergy*

Staff: Casey Cantwell, *Organist and Director of Music*; Karen Rich, *Associate Director of Music and Organist*; Chad Johnson, *Music Intern*; Barbara Harlas, *Printer*; Donnie Henderson, *Sexton*; Becky Moseman, *Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministry*; Hannah Middlebrook, *Director of Operations*; Jenny Robertson, *Financial Secretary*; Edward Roling, *Christian Formation*; Jan Schneider, *Front Office Coordinator*.

Technical Team: Jennifer Ratliff-Towner, *Lead*; Michael Towner, Philippe Beaudette, Lizze Radford, Jeff Luke.

Vestry: Pat Woodrum, *Senior Warden*; Joe Wilkinson, *Junior Warden*; Harry Dandelles, *Treasurer*; Joe Woltz, *Clerk*; Bill Nay, *Chancellor*; Emily Bibens; Dale Billam; Caroline Crain; Jennifer Grassmeyer; Rusty Renfrow; Jessica Smith; Patti Smith; and George Walls.

Trinity Episcopal Church: 501 S. Cincinnati Ave., Tulsa, OK 74103; 918-582-4128; www.trinitytulsa.org