



## Wednesday@12 OnLine

September 9, 2020 *WE GATHER ON ZOOM* to be in community and to share thoughts and reflections on the readings scheduled for the coming Sunday service. The service starts with praise to God. Then we read the three readings, taking turns serving as readers. Third, we pray for each other and the world. When it can, Holy Communion comes next. Today, however, we will simply shift from formal readings to informal discussion and conversation. Feel free to provide yourself with coffee or tea while we chat. Welcome!

Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Gracious 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 Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Open our lips, O God,

**And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

Be joyful, and serve God with gladness,

**and come before God's presence with a song.**

Let us enter this sacred moment with thanksgiving,

**and come into God's presence with praise.**

God is good; God's mercy is everlasting;

**and God's faithfulness endures from age to age.**

O God of compassion, whose heart goes out to the hungry and destitute; who takes our lack and transforms it into much: give us the bread that satisfies, the food without price, that our lives may be freed to share your overflowing love; through Jesus Christ, the breaker of bread. **Amen.**

## Three Readings

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Pondering their father's death, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph is angry with us and repays us for all the wrong we did him?" So they approached Joseph, saying: "Before Jacob died he said to us, 'You must say to Joseph: I beg you, please forgive your brothers their crime and their sin and all the wrong they did you.' Now therefore, we ask you, forgive the crime of us who are faithful to the God of your parents." Joseph wept when he heard this. Then the brothers wept also, and fell down before him, saying, "We submit to you as slaves." Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid. Is it for me to put myself in God's place? You planned evil for me, but God planned it for the good, as it has come to pass this day—to bring about the survival of many people. So you need not be afraid. I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this manner he assured them with words that touched their hearts.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

**Thanks be to God.**

Middle Reading: From Sayings of the Desert Fathers, by Benedicta Ward.

A brother at Scetis committed a fault. A council was called to which Abba Moses was invited, but he refused to go to it. Then they sent someone to say to him, "Come, for everyone is waiting for you." So he got up and went.

He took a leaking jug, filled it with water and carried it with him. The others came out to meet him and said to him, "What is this, Abba?" The old man said to them, "My sins run out behind me and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another."

When they heard that, they said no more to the brother, but forgave him.

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**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?”

“No,” Jesus replied, “not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here’s why. The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt. At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, ‘I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!’ Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt.

Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, ‘Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!’ But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid.

When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the official and said, ‘You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?’ Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full.

My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

**Thanks be to God.**

# The Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**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.**

\*Jesus revealed a new, personal sense of relationship with God by addressing God as something like "Papa." Always feel free to use your most meaningful name for God in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Although Trinity often uses different interpretations of the Lord's Prayer when we worship, today we use the traditional version to express our trust that we are one with God and all people around the world and throughout history.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; including members of all religions; the people and leadership of The Episcopal Church; and the community of Trinity. Let us pray for all who seek the beauty of holiness.

*Please feel free to voice the names of those in your prayers*

I ask your prayers for those who are sick, who struggle in poverty or under oppression, and for those who care for them. Let us pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Please feel free to voice the names of those in your prayers*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Let us pray for equity, mutual regard, and peace.

*Please feel free to voice the names of those in your prayers*

I ask your prayers for all who seek to practice their spirituality, and live more nearly according to their values. Let us pray for us all.

*Please feel free to voice the names of those in your prayers*

I ask your prayers for those who have died, and for those who grieve the absent. Let us pray for the grieving and the dead.

*Please feel free to voice the names of those in your prayers*

And now, let us give thanks to God for the abundance of our lives.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of God be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## Holy Conversation