



## Wednesday@12 OnLine

***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 this service can be held in person, Holy Communion comes next. At this time, 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.**

Now, we respond to the Pope's invitation to pray in unity with Christians around the world, praying the Lords' Prayer at noon today in our own time zone.

**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.

Life giving God, we praise you for your steadfast love, for the assurance given in countless ways that our whole lives are held in your embrace. Open our hearts and minds to your truth and your presence, conveyed in words shared by your people. **Amen.**

## Three Readings

### First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of God was upon me, and it carried me away by the Spirit of God and set me down in a valley—a valley full of bones. God made me walk up and down among them. And I saw that there was a vast number of bones lying there in the valley, and they were very dry. God asked me, “Mere mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “Only you know that, O God. And God said, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: ‘Dry bones, hear the word of God. God says to these bones: I am going to breathe life into you. I will fasten sinews on you, clothe you with flesh, cover you with skin, and give you breath. And you will live; and you will know that I am God.’”

So I prophesied as I was commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and all the bones came together, bone to matching bone. As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh clothed them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

Then God said to me, “Prophecy to the wind; prophecy, and say to it: Thus says the Sovereign God: Approach from the four winds, Breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as I was commanded, and breath came into them; they came alive, and stood up on their feet—a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, “Mere mortal, these bones are the whole House of Israel. The people keep saying, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is gone, and we are doomed.’ Prophecy, therefore, and say to them, Thus says the Sovereign God: I am going to open your graves and raise you up from the dead, my people. I will return you to the land of Israel. When I open your graves and raise you up, you, my people, will know that I am God. Then I will put my Spirit into you and you will return to life, and I will settle you back on your own land. Then you will know that I, God, have spoken and made all this happen.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

**Thanks be to God.**





Middle Reading  
Another Sarah, by Katherine Anne Porter

*for Christopher Smart*

When winter was half over  
God sent three angels to the  
apple-tree  
Who said to her  
“Be glad, you little rack  
Of empty sticks,  
Because you have been chosen.

In May you will become  
A wave of living sweetness  
A nation of white petals  
A dynasty of apples.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people  
**Thanks be to God.**



Gospel  
John 11:1-45

There was a certain man named Lazarus, who was sick. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were from the village of Bethany. Mary was the one who had anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume and dried his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. The sisters sent this message to Jesus: "Rabbi, the one you love is sick." When Jesus heard this, he said, "This sickness will not end in death; it is happening for God's glory, so that God's Only Begotten may be glorified because of it." Jesus loved these three very much. Yet even after hearing that Lazarus was sick, he remained where he was staying for two more days. Finally he said to the disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

They protested, "Rabbi, it was only recently that they tried to stone you—and you want to go back there again?" Jesus replied, "Aren't there twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk by day don't stumble, because they see the world bathed in light; those who go walking by night will stumble because there is no light in them." After Jesus said this, he said to the disciples, "Our beloved Lazarus has fallen asleep. I am going to Judea to wake him." The disciples objected, "But Rabbi, if he's only asleep, he'll be fine." Jesus had been speaking about Lazarus' death, but they thought he was talking about actual sleep. So he said very plainly, "Lazarus is dead! For your sakes I am glad that I wasn't there, that you might come to believe. In any event, let us go to him." Then Thomas, "the Twin," said to the rest, "Let's go with Jesus, so that we can die with him."

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Since Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, many people had come out to console Martha and Mary about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary stayed at home with the mourners. When she got to Jesus, Martha said, "If you had been here, my brother would never have died! Yet even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask." "Your brother will rise again!" Jesus assured her. Martha replied, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the Resurrection, and I am Life: those who believe in me will live, even if they die; and those who are alive and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes!" Martha replied. "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, God's Only Begotten, the One who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, Martha went back and called her sister Mary. "The Teacher is here, asking for you," she whispered. As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went to him. Jesus hadn't gotten to the village yet. He was at the place where Martha had met him. Those who were there consoling her saw her get up quickly and followed Mary, thinking she was going to the tomb to mourn. When Mary got to Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "If you had been here, Lazarus never would have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the other mourners as well, he was troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions. "Where have you laid him?" Jesus asked. "Come and see," they said. And Jesus wept.

The people in the crowd began to remark, "See how much he loved him!" Others said, "He made the blind person see; why couldn't he have done something to prevent Lazarus' death?" Jesus was again deeply moved. They approached the tomb, which was a cave with a stone in front of it. "Take away the stone," Jesus directed. Martha said, "Rabbi, it has been four days now. By this time there will be a stench." Jesus replied, "Didn't I assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took the stone away.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Abba, thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they might believe that you sent me!" Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus came out of the tomb, still bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus told the crowd, "Untie him and let him go free."

Many of those who had come to console Martha and Mary, and saw what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

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. 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.

*Silence is held*

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.

*Silence is held*

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.

*Silence is held*

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.

*Silence is held*

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.

*Silence is held*

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