



Wednesday@Noon

WEDNESDAY@Noon is an offering of online communion. We offer words and gestures to thank God for the life, death and resurrection of Christ through the sharing of bread and wine, asking God to nourish us with Christ's body and blood. Because we are separated from each other physically and are unable to give each other the bread and wine, we are unable to follow the forms exactly as tradition has handed them down to us. Thus we will do what we can, asking God for the grace to discern Christ's real presence.

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: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

The word that came to Jeremiah from God in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar: At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.

The word of God came to me and said, “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’” And just as God foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?” I knew that that this was the word of God.

So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale. I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse. I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: “Thus says Yahweh Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time. For this is what Yahweh Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

Thanks be to God.

Middle Reading: "African Elegy" by Ben Okri

We are the miracles that God made
To taste the bitter fruit of Time.
We are precious.
And one day our suffering
Will turn into the wonders of the earth.

There are things that burn me now
Which turn golden when I am happy.
Do you see the mystery of our pain?
That we bear poverty
And are able to sing and dream sweet things

And that we never curse the air when it is warm
Or the fruit when it tastes so good
Or the lights that bounce gently on the waters?
We bless things even in our pain.
We bless them in silence.

That is why our music is so sweet.
It makes the air remember.
There are secret miracles at work
That only Time will bring forth.
I too have heard the dead singing.

And they tell me that
This life is good
They tell me to live it gently
With fire, and always with hope.
There is wonder here

And there is surprise
In everything the unseen moves.
The ocean is full of songs.
The sky is not an enemy.
Destiny is our friend.

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

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said, "Once there was a rich person who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. At the gate of this person's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich person's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Sarah and Abraham.

"The rich person likewise died and was buried. In Hades, in torment, the rich person looked up and saw Sarah and Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in their company. 'Sarah and Abraham,' the rich person cried, 'have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!' But they said, 'My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment. But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.'

"The rich person said, 'I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.' But Sarah and Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.'

"'Please, I beg you,' the rich person said, 'if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.' 'If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,' Sarah and Abraham replied, 'they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!'"

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.

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, that they may find God and follow the path of Life. 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

I ask your prayers of gratitude and joy.

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.

Offertory

All members of the online gathering now make any final preparations of their bread and wine, and show their plate and cup to the group.

Blessing and Sharing Bread and Wine

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings you never cease to call us to fullness of life. **You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world;** he fed us and feasted with us, he healed us and suffered for us; **his dying and rising have set us free from the poverty of sin and the famine of death.** Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the song of your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

At the following words, everyone lifts their plate and cup into view.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that they may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: **“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.”**

Therefore we proclaim him as creation’s host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Author of blessings, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Now, as 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.

*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, on Wednesdays we use the traditional version to express our trust that we are one with God and all people around the world and throughout history.

All are invited to break their bread.

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Were not our hearts burning within us as we walked along the road?

During a moment of quiet, all receive their bread and wine.

Let us pray.

Loving God,

we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image

and remembering the body of Christ,

which has been broken for the life of the world.

Now give us grace to trust that we are

a people, forgiven, healed, renewed.

Give us the courage to proclaim your love to the world,

and to continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things, and the blessing of God, the Holy and undivided Trinity, be with you always. **Amen.**

This blessing is based on Philippians 4:8

Holy Conversation

The collect at the top of page 2 and the prayer over the bread and wine are adapted from the writing of Steven Shakespeare in his book, Prayers for an Inclusive Church.

The cover image is a photo of the floor near the high altar at Trinity, a mosaic created by John LaFarge's studio.