



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: Exodus 16:2-15

They began to complain against Moses and Aaron there in the wilderness. The people of Israel said to them, "If only we had died by God's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat next to pots of meat and ate our bread till we were filled! But now you have brought the whole community out into this wilderness to die of hunger!"

Then God said to Moses, "Look, I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people will go out and gather a day's portion every day, on that I can test them to see if they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they brought in, it will be twice as much as the daily gathering." So Moses and Aaron said to the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was God who brought you up out of Egypt, and in the morning you will witness the glory of God, the One to whom you directed your complaints—for who are we, that you should complain to us?"

Moses continued, "It is God who will give you meat in the evening for your meal, and all the bread you want in the morning, because God has heard your complaints. For it is not to us that you are complaining—who are we?—but to God." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Tell the whole Israelite community, 'Present yourselves before God, who has heard your complaints.'" As Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of God appearing in the form of a cloud. Then God spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the people of Israel. Say this to them: 'In the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your God.'" So it came about that in the evening quail flew in and all around the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the

camp; when the layer of dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were flakes of something: delicate, powdery, fine as frost. When they saw this, the people of Israel said to each other, “What is it?”—not knowing what it was. But Moses told them, “This is the bread God has given you to eat.

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

Middle Reading: Who Carries My Candle, by Ansie Baird

It’s not so much a question of who as what carries my candle And when	abandoned to find
thunder storms wrack the branches of the dark part of the park I am distracted	my way in ample darkness I have need of light not to stumble
which stone bridge to take whether to lean into the wind on bare feet	Who carries my candle? What small flame leads
or flee in some dumb contraption	me I ask night’s lurking silence No reply Still I ask
	time and time again you do

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

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard. “About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, and said to them, ‘You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.’ At that they left.

“Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ ‘No one has hired us,’ they replied.

“The owner said, ‘You go to my vineyard, too.’

“When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, ‘Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.’ When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day's pay, and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage.

“Thereupon they complained to the owner, ‘This last group did only an hour's work, but you've put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.’ ‘My friends,’ said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, ‘I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn't you? Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. I'm free to do as I please with my money, aren't I? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“Thus the last will be first and the first will be last.”

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, 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.

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.