



## 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

Isaiah 11:1-10

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;  
from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom.

The Spirit of God will rest on you:

a spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
a spirit of counsel and strength,  
a spirit of knowledge and reverence for God.

You will delight in obeying God,

and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay.

You will treat poor people with fairness

and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden.

With a single word you will strike down tyrants;

with your decrees you will execute evil people.

Justice will be the belt around your waist;

faithfulness will gird you up.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;

the calf and the lion cub will graze together,

and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear;

their young will lie down together;

the lion will eat hay like the ox.

The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,

and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.

There will be no harm,

no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain;

for as water fills the sea,

so the land will be filled with knowledge of God.

On that day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world; nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.

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

Middle Reading

"Two Voices in a Meadow" by Richard Wilbur

#### A Milkweed

Anonymous as cherubs  
Over the crib of God,  
White seeds are floating  
Out of my burst pod.  
What power had I  
Before I learned to yield?  
Shatter me, great wind:  
I shall possess the field.

#### A Stone

As casual as cow-dung  
Under the crib of God,  
I lie where chance would have me,  
Up to the ears in sod.  
Why should I move? To move  
Befits light desire.  
The sill of Heaven would founder,  
Did such as I aspire.

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

## Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. When Jesus' mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly. This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and said, "Joseph, heir to the House of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, that is, 'Salvation,' because he will save the people from their sins." All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and give birth, and the child will be named Immanuel" (a name that means 'God is with us'). When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage. He did not have marital relations with her until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

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.**

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.*