

Name _____

“An Empty Church at Noon” Questions

Part 1

In your group, answer the following questions about the poet's experience of an empty church:

- Name several of the observations that the speaker of the poem makes about the church and its contents. Does the poet understand the purpose of each?
- Why might this person continue visiting this church or possibly other churches?
- The speaker is familiar with this church. How familiar are you with your parish church, its contents, and its architecture? How would you describe your parish church?
- Does the speaker represent the Church's liturgy in this poem? What major component is missing?
- The speaker ends the poem with an ambivalent question: Where are the people? How would you answer this question?



- How would you describe the church during a liturgical celebration? As a group, come up with some words and phrases doing so. Join them with the words and phrases of other groups and combine these into a new poem.

Part 2

In your group, answer the following questions about your own experience of the liturgy:

- Describe the best experience of liturgy that you have had.
- Have you participated in a liturgy as a reader, altar server, Eucharistic minister, or hospitality minister? If not, have you considered volunteering?
- Do you find a particular part of the liturgy to be the most meaningful?
- Do you feel bored or uninformed about the Church and the liturgy? What do you think that you or others in the Church could do to improve your experience of liturgy?

