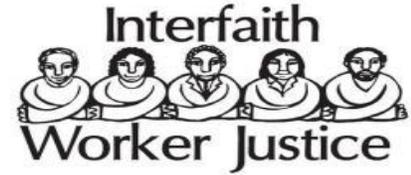




# The Cries of the Harvesters

## A Collection of Prayer Resources Remembering Farm Workers

A Thanksgiving Litany from  
Interfaith Worker Justice <http://www.iwj.org/>



**Speaker:** O God of seed and harvest, the meal before us is a sight to behold and we are grateful.

**Response:** The meat and the vegetables, the fruit and bread, the drink and fellowship of this meal are gifts from Your mighty hand and outstretched arm

**Speaker:** This turkey has given up life so that we might have life.

**Response:** We are mindful of the sacrifice—the exchange of death for life—associated with our being fed and nourished.

**Speaker:** From egg to chick to bird to food, countless human hands have brought this turkey to our table.

**Response:** We are grateful for the farmers, the poultry plant workers, the shippers and market place workers, and those who have prepared this meal.

**Speaker:** We are sorry and repent for any suffering, abuse or exploitation that workers feel as the result of their labor on our behalf.

**Response:** We commit ourselves to eat this meal in peace, and rise from this table for work for justice and harmony on the earth and among the people of the earth.

**ALL:** Taste and see how good God is!

### Thanksgiving Grace from Interfaith Worker Justice

O God of seed and harvest, we pause to give thanks for the table set before us and the food that graces it.

[The people gathered take turns naming the various foods on the table being blessed, by saying, “thank you for the \_\_\_\_\_” until all the foods have been named.]

In a moment we will eat this food, harvested from many parts of the nation and world. It will be transformed into the flesh and blood of our bodies. Keep us mindful of the many workers who labor in field and factory to bring us this food.

From the bounty and nourishment of the meal, we dedicate ourselves to work to abolish poverty, unsafe working conditions, workplace abuse, and unjust wages among those who feed us through their labor.

We pray this in the name of the Creator God, who not only fed the Israelites in the desert but transformed simple folk like us into disciples for justice and peace. Amen.



**Blessing Prayer from  
National Farm Worker Ministry** <http://nfwm.org/>

Bless the hands of the people of the earth,  
The hands that plant the seed,  
The hands that bind the harvest,  
The hands that carry the burden of life.  
Soften the hands of the oppressor and  
Strengthen the hands of the oppressed.  
Bless the hands of the workers,  
Bless the hands of those in power above them  
That the measure they deal will be tempered  
With justice and compassion. Amen.

**Prayer of Repentance from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

Leader: God, for enjoying the foods in our hands without remembering the hands that grew them,

**All: We ask your pardon, Lord.**

Leader: For too long enjoying the fruits of others' labors without praying for those who harvest our fruit,

**All: We pray now for those who work in the fields.**

Leaders: For farmworker brothers and sisters who too often suffer wage and physical abuse, crying out from the fields,

**All: Help us join with their cries to ask and work for justice.**

Leader: As you asked us to seek mercy for the neglected and give love to the vulnerable,

**All: We seek your forgiveness for those we have too often forgotten. Give us your strength to renew our courage, and build solidarity and love with farmworkers who make possible our feasts. AMEN.**

**We encourage you to use any or multiple prayers during a worship service, vigil, or around the table during the Thanksgiving season. For more resources, please visit our Interfaith Immigration Coalition website at:**

**[interfaithimmigration.org](http://interfaithimmigration.org)**