

The Collect and Readings for Harvest Festival

Introduction and call to worship

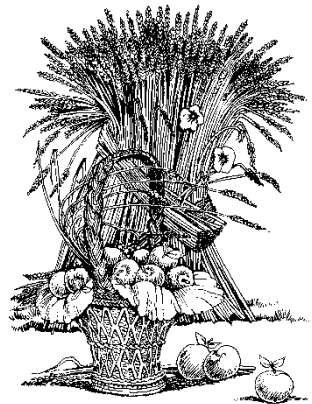
The land has yielded its harvest:
God, our God has blessed us. Psalm 67:6

Collect

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving
for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread
and wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence
for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards
of the good things we enjoy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Harvest Thanksgiving Readings

First Reading – Deuteronomy 8.7-18

Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 9.6-15

The Gospel – Luke 12.16-30

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

⁷The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65

¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem. ² To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, because of their transgressions. ³ Our sins are stronger than we are, but you will blot them out.

⁴ Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple. ⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

⁶ You make fast the mountains by your power; they are girded about with might. ⁷ You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamour of the peoples.

⁸ Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvellous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy. ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

¹⁰ You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth. ¹¹ You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase. ¹² You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹³ May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy. ¹⁴ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

You crown the year with goodness.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

⁶The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia. Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting. Gather the fruit for eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

And he told them this parable: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, “What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.” ¹⁸‘Then he said, “This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

²⁰‘But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?” ²¹‘This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.’

²²Then Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

²⁴Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?

²⁶Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷‘Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ²⁸If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! ²⁹And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.