

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 26:1-11

Second Reading – Philippians 4:4-9

The Gospel – John 6:25-35

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

¹When you have entered the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, ²take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ³and say to the priest in office at the time, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God. ⁵Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: 'My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. ⁶But the Egyptians ill-treated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labour. ⁷Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. ⁸So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. ⁹He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; ¹⁰and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me.' Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. ¹¹Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

Psalm 100

¹ Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness and
come before his presence with a song.

² Know this: the Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us and we are
his; we are his people and the sheep
of his pasture.

³ Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go
into his courts with praise; give thanks
to him and call upon his name.

⁴ For the Lord is good; his mercy is
everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.



Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

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 John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, 'Rabbi, when did you get here?'

²⁶ Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.'

²⁸ Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?'

²⁹ Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'

³⁰ So they asked him, 'What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."^[c]

³² Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

³⁴ 'Sir,' they said, 'always give us this bread.'

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.