

Welcome & Opening responses

For your goodness that blesses us and the earth: **thank you God!**

For those who make and grow our food: **thank you God!**

For our church and all those who nourish our lives: **thank you God!**

A special prayer for today:

We praise you, O God, we worship you, we adore you.

Day and night tell of your glory; the song of the wind whispers of your majesty.

The flowers in the garden and the birds in the air tell of your goodness;

You satisfy all things living with your abundance,

and our hearts are full in your presence.

So we, too, would echo their praise.

Accept us, your children, Eternal Father, and hear our prayer.

Help us now to realise your presence with us, & bless us in our worship. **Amen.**

Hymn – We plough the fields and scatter

1. We plough the fields and scatter / The good seed on the land,

But it is fed and watered / By God's almighty hand:

He sends the snow in winter, / The warmth to swell the grain,

The breezes, and the sunshine, / And soft, refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us / Are sent from heaven above;

Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord, / For all His love.

2. He only is the Maker / Of all things near and far;

He paints the wayside flower, / He lights the evening star;

The winds and waves obey Him, / By Him the birds are fed;

Much more to us, His children, / He gives our daily bread.

3. We thank Thee then, O Father, / For all things bright and good:

The seedtime and the harvest, / Our life, our health, our food;

No gifts have we to offer / For all Thy love imparts,

But that which Thou desirest — / Our humble, thankful hearts.

Confession and Forgiveness

Harvest makes us aware of how much we have to enjoy, but it also makes us aware of how often we fail to take care of the world and those around us. So let us come before God in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Lord God, Sometimes we turn our eyes away and forget that there are wrong things happening in your world

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, sometimes we are greedy and buy more than we need, forgetting that there are people who have very little

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, sometimes we are careless and waste the resources in your world

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies forgive us and free us from our sins, heal & strengthen us by his Spirit, & raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 65:17-66:2 *The promise of a New Creation*

Our Harvest Offerings

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:9-13 *Jesus calls Matthew to offer himself*

Song – Harvest Samba

1. Cabbages and greens, / Broccoli and beans,
Cauliflower and roasted potatoes, / Taste so good to me!
Apricots and plums, / Ripened in the sun,
Oranges and yellow bananas, / Good for everyone!

*It's another Harvest Festival, / When we bring our fruit and vegetables,
'Cause we want to share the best of all
The good things that we've been given.*

*It's another opportunity, / To be grateful for the food we eat,
With a samba celebration to
say 'Thank you' to God the Father.*

...continues over

2. Golden corn and wheat, / Oats and sugar beet,
Fluffy rice and tasty spaghetti, / Wonderful to eat!
Coffee, cocoa, tea, / Growing naturally,
Herbal plants and all kinds of spices, / Very nice indeed! *Chorus*

Thank you for the harvest,
Thank you for your goodness,
For all of the fruit and vegetables
And the wonderful things that grow.

Chorus

Reflection

Response: Just as I am...

1. Just as I am, without one plea, / But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, / O Lamb of God, I come.
2. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because Thy promise I believe, / O Lamb of God, I come.
3. Just as I am, Thy love unknown / Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, / O Lamb of God, I come.

Prayers

*Response: Lord, of the harvest: **hear our prayer.***

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the giver, provider and sustainer of all, pour his blessings upon all things he has created, and upon each of us his precious children, that we may use his gifts and talents to his glory and for the benefit of all peoples. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now & for ever. Amen.

The Peace:

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you!**

Hymn – Come, ye thankful people, come

1. Come, ye thankful people, come, / Raise the song of harvest-home!
All is safely gathered in, / Ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide / For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come – / Raise the song of harvest-home!

2. All the world is God's own field, / Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, / Unto joy or sorrow grown –
First the blade and then the ear, / Then the full corn shall appear:
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we / Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come, / And shall take His harvest home,
From His field shall purge away / All that doth offend, that day;
Give His angels charge at last / In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store / In His garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come: / Bring thy final harvest home!
Gather Thou Thy people in, / Free from sorrow, free from sin.
There, forever purified, / In Thy garner to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels, come: / Raise the glorious harvest home!

Blessing and Dismissal

May God's joy be in our hearts, may God's peace be in our world,
may God's love be known between us...

....and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace and love of Christ. **Amen, thanks be to God!**