

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for Harvest -tide.
Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God:
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever, Amen

As we make our Harvest thanksgiving today:

it is a time to give thanks for the fruit of the earth God has created and for those who labour on the land and at sea for us to be able to receive that fruit

It is a time to reflect on the fruit of our own lives

And, it is a good time to renew our awareness of the need for human beings to learn to cherish the creation of which they are part.

So as we come to a time of confession, let us call to mind all the ways we fail to co-operate with the Creator in caring for our world and sharing its riches:

God has blessed us, but still God's children go hungry:

Lord have mercy

God has blessed us, but still the poor cry out for justice

Lord have mercy

God has blessed us but still we see inequality, oppression and disregard the flourishing of all life on earth

Lord have mercy

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins and bring you to everlasting life Amen

Let us pray

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.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Luke 12: 16-30

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray to God, the Lord of the Harvest, that God will bring to fruition all God desires for God's creation:

Lord of Creation, we see the fields are ripe for harvesting: we pray for your Church that it may be ready to gather fruit for eternal life.

Lord of the harvest, in your mercy hear us

You have created the universe by your eternal Word: we pray for the world, that we may honour and share its resources and live in reverence and harmony with all creation.

Lord of the harvest, in your mercy hear us

Your Son has promised us that the Spirit will lead us into all truth: we pray for the community in which you have set us, for one another and for ourselves, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace.

Lord of the harvest, in your mercy hear us

Your Son came to bring healing and wholeness: we pray for all who bear the weight of affliction, that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty

Lord of the harvest, in your mercy hear us

Your Son Jesus Christ is the first-fruits of the resurrection and will reap the harvest of the dead at the end of time: we pray that he will gather us all together with those who have gone before in the banquet of the age to come

Lord of the harvest, in your mercy hear us

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

May God our Creator, who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air, bestow on you his care and increase the harvest of your righteousness, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.