

PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist



*'Speak to the people of Israel and say to them:
When you enter the land that I am giving you and
you reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the
first fruits of your harvest to the priest.'*

Leviticus 23.10

The Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all:

and also with you.

The president greets the people.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, you breathe your own life into us;

you give us that gift of life every day.

You placed us on this earth with its flowers and fruits,

its minerals and waters, with its living creatures of grace and beauty.

You give us the care of the earth.

Help us to honour you by honouring your creation.

Amen.

A hymn is sung.

Harvest Acclamation

The earth has yielded its harvest;

God, our God, has blessed us.

You visit the earth and water it;

you make it very plenteous.

You soften the ground with showers;

and bless the increase of it.

You crown the year with your goodness;

And your paths overflow with plenty.

The meadows are clothed with sheep;

The valleys stand so thick with corn,

They shout for joy and sing.

The earth has yielded its harvest;

God, our God, has blessed us.

Prayer for Forgiveness

When we are unkind to people,

and forget that all are God's children;

when we are careless with the animals

and forget they too are God's creation;

when we ill-treat the land,

and forget it is the splendour of God himself;

forgive us, O God of love, and reconcile us to yourself,

to one another and to your creation.

Teach us all that the earth and all its fullness is yours,

the world and those who dwell in it.

Remind us that your Son also enjoyed the fruits of harvest in Galilee,

and joins us as we celebrate together today.

Help us always to care for the gift of life,

now and always.

Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw you to himself,

and cleanse you from all your sins

that you may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

The following is sung.

Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father.**

To God be glory for ever!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.**

To God be glory for ever!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.**

To God be glory for ever!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

The Harvest Collect

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

*Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.
At the end of each the reader may say:*

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A hymn or psalm may be sung.

Gospel Reading

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 N.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers for the World

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

We pray for all who are hungry or homeless,
for all for whom the harvest brings sadness not joy,
for those who are lonely or helpless,
and those who are disappointed in life.

Lord, bless them in your love.

We pray for all who are downtrodden or oppressed,
for those without power, and who struggle for justice;
for all who influence our thinking, our buying and consuming,
for governments, for fairness and compassion in all they do.

Lord, bless them in your love.

Help us to be responsible in looking after your world,
and to take care of your creation and of each other.

**Lord, may your Kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Amen.

On this special day in the life of our parish
we hold up to you, O Lord, our new Rector Jo.
May her ministry in this place be fruitful,
and may she strengthen us in your service.
May she and her family feel welcomed, supported
and loved by this community.

Amen.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

A hymn is sung as the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar, together with some of the goods collected for our chosen charity.

The president then blesses the gifts.

Father, bless these gifts which we offer in your name.
May those who receive them know your love
and find a rich blessing in your bounty.

Amen.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
you bring forth bread from the earth.

Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
you create the fruit of the vine.

Blessed be God forever.

The Communion Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death
and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit
that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voices to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come;
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

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 and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb,
Worthy is the Lamb of God.**

**Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb,
Worthy is the Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sins of all;
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All are invited to come forward to receive communion or a blessing.
During communion, music may be sung or played.*

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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 you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices may be given, and a final hymn is sung.

The Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall softly upon your heads, gardens and fields.
Until we meet again,
may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.
And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and those whom you love,
now and always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

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