



H.A.R.V.E.S.T!
God is good... all the time...
We give thanks

The Lord's Prayer

*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*

Call to worship

Let us proclaim God's bounty and blessing
Let us proclaim God's goodness and providence!
Let all who are hungry come and eat from God's provision.
Let any who are thirsty come and drink from God's
blessing. Let us rejoice in our generous God!

Song: For the beauty of the earth by John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVQFEgT7E6c>

Opening Prayer

Father in heaven, all good gifts come from You. You send the sunshine and the rain, and it is through Your love and care that we enjoy the harvest time. Thank you for providing so richly for our needs and help us to share the good things we have with those who have little or nothing.

We confess our forgetfulness to You, our God; our failure to give thanks and the ways in which we have wasted the gifts of creation. We confess to You our lack of care for the world You have given us. Lord, have mercy on us.

We confess to You our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly. Christ, have mercy on us.

We confess to You our failure to protect resources for others. Lord, have mercy on us.

Loving Father, show us mercy, restore us in Your likeness and give us generous hearts and lives. Amen.

Matthew 6:25-33

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well".

**YOU are the best resource
our church has, whatever
your role, wherever you do
it. Thank you.**

Song: Bringing the Sheaves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYPIdChzC9Q>

Reading 1

The earth is at the same time mother, she is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human. She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all. The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating power. It is in so many ways fruitful. All creation comes from it. Yet it forms the basic raw material for humankind but also the substance of the incarnation of God's son.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Reading 2

There is no such thing as 'my' bread. All bread is ours and is given to me, to others through me, and to me through others. For not only bread, but all things necessary for sustenance in this life, are given on loan to us with others, and because of others and for others, and to others through us.

Meister Eckhart (1290-1329)

Reading 3

Remember the poor when you look out on the fields you own, on your plump cows grazing. Remember the poor when you look into your barn, at the abundance of your harvest. Remember the poor when the wind howls and the rain falls, as you sit warm and dry in your house.

Remember the poor when you eat fine meat and drink fine ale at your fine carved table. The cows have grass to eat; The rabbits have burrows for shelter. The birds have warm nests. But the poor have no food except what you feed them; no shelter except your house when you welcome them; no warmth except your glowing fire.

Author unknown

A prayer based on Psalm 65

God, You deserve our praise, because You answer our prayers. You forgive us when we do wrong. You bless us with your goodness. You give hope to people everywhere on earth, because You are strong, your mighty power put the mountains in place. You can silence the roaring waves. People near and far celebrate and sing because of Your love. You take care of the earth and send rain to help the soil grow all kinds of crops. Your rivers never run dry, and You prepare the earth to produce much grain. You water all of its fields and level the lumpy ground. You send showers of rain to soften the soil and help the plants sprout. Wherever Your footsteps touch the earth, a rich harvest is gathered. Desert pastures blossom, and mountains celebrate.

Meadows are filled with sheep and goats; valleys overflow with grain and echo with joyful songs. In Your provision for our own needs, we thank You. In Your desire to provide for the needs of all, we honour You. Let a full measure of Your provision flow to meet the needs of all Your people. Amen

Prayers for others

Lord God Almighty, You call us by your mercy and claim us with Your truth. Even in these days of protest and pandemic, show us what it means that You are the Creator, Christ, and Comforter. Show us how to believe that You have made each of us in Your image. Show us what it means that even now, Your kingdom is breaking into the world. Even in these days, show us how to sing and praise and pray to You.

Loving Father, make Yourself known to us. Make Yourself known to those fighting and fleeing wildfires on the West Coast of the United States, as well as those who are living with the aftermath of devastating flames and red skies of smoke. Make Yourself known to those grappling with Covid-19, whether they are at home or in hospital beds, prison cells or nursing homes, science labs or health institutes or NGOs. We give You thanks for those in Africa, New Zealand, and other regions where communities are collectively, compassionately working so well to contain and curtain the virus in their midst. We pray for guidance for us, United States, India, Brazil, and Mexico, as we grapple with increasing number of infections. This week our hearts break as the United States pass 200,000 dead. Be with us in our present moments. Reveal Yourself in ways that we might taste and touch and see and hear and know, deep within our flesh and bones.

Nurture the lives of all young people around the world who are living with the uncertainty of economic prospects, the stress of climate change, the unanswered questions around truths of human dignity. Bring forth in them a new energy for purpose-seeking, meaning-making, and community action. Heal and lead us, empower and direct us, bless us and make us a blessing for many. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing Hymn: Come ye thankful, come

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imK0j7eBJsc>

God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

Final blessings

Let thanksgiving enhance the joys we experience, let thanksgiving transcend the pains we may suffer, let thanksgiving sweeten the duties we must perform, let thanksgiving underpin even the griefs we may have to endure.

**O give thanks to our God who is so good,
whose love stands firm forever.**

