

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

HARVEST THANKSGIVING (YEAR A)

## 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. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Deu 8.7–18*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the

Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 126*



℣. Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy. (*All repeat*)



When the Lord restored the fort-lunes of Zion, then were we like <sup>l</sup> those who dream. Then was our mouth <sup>l</sup> filled with laughter, and our tongue with <sup>l</sup> songs of joy. ℣.

Then said they a-lmong the nations, 'The Lord has done <sup>l</sup> great things for them.' The Lord has indeed done <sup>l</sup> great things for us, and therefore <sup>l</sup> we rejoiced. ℣.

Restore again our fort-lunes O Lord, as the river beds <sup>l</sup> of the desert. Those who <sup>l</sup> sow in tears shall reap with <sup>l</sup> songs of joy. ℣.

Those who <sup>l</sup> go out weeping, carry-ling the seed, will come back with <sup>l</sup> shouts of joy, shoulder-ling their sheaves. ℣.

## SECOND READING

*2 Cor 9.6–15*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and

bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*cf Jn 4.35,36*

**Alleluia.** Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting; gather the fruit for eternal life. **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING

*Lk 12.16–30*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus told the people a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich towards God.”

And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of

how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, make holy the gifts we offer with gratitude from the produce of the earth, and as you have made our land bear a rich harvest, make our hearts fruitful with your life and love; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the 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. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

God the Father, who created the world,  
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation. **Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,  
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation, help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...