

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

HARVEST THANKSGIVING (YEAR B)

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

Joel 2.21–27

A reading from the prophet Joel.

Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Fear not, you beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 65



R. Some seed fell in rich soil and blossomed with abundance. (*All repeat*)



You visit the | earth and water it;
you make it | very plenteous.
The river of God is | full of water;
and so you provide | for the earth. **R.**

You drench the furrows and smooth | out the
ridges;
with showers you soften the ground and |
bless its increase.

You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over-|flow with plenty. **R.**

The pasture of the wilderness | flows with
goodness
and the hills are | clothed with joy;
the meadows are decked with | flocks of
sheep,
the valleys so thick with corn that they |
laugh and sing. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Tim 6.6–10

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

There is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pang.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Mt 6.25-33

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, 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 of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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 ...