

ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING

*Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

John 6:37

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2025

Harvest Festival

THE GATHERING

*All the words are in this service sheet. Please join in with the words printed in **bold type**.*

At the start of the service a bell is rung and the procession enters as we stand to sing the opening hymn.

ENTRANCE HYMN

**We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
God sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.**

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.*

**You only are the maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the wind and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give us daily bread**

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.*

**We thank you then, our Maker,
for all things bright and good,**

the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for,
our humble, thankful hearts.

THE GREETING

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The priest welcomes us and introduces the theme of the service.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget
that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Knowing that we are forgiven for our sins we sing this song of praise to God.

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The priest invites us to pray silently and then prays the 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

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

The point is this: 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;
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.

GRADUAL HYMN—PSALM 126

Gelobt sei Gott 266

Our gradual hymn is a congregational setting of today's psalm. As we sing the Gospel Book is carried into the midst of the congregation, reflecting God's coming among us in Christ. Please turn to face it.

**Shout to the Lord in every place,
worship with joy in every race,
sing to the Lord before his face.
Alleluia.**

**Know that the Lord alone is God;
we are the people of the Lord,
sheep of his flock beneath his rod.
Alleluia.**

**Enter his gates with songs to raise,
enter his courts with thanks and praise,
bless him forever, all his ways.
Alleluia.**

**For he is good, the Lord is sure;
mercy and truth from him endure,
steadfast and firm for evermore.
Alleluia.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 12:16-30

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
God has spoken to us through his Son,
through whom he created the worlds
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull 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, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 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 can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry 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 clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

THE SERMON

A brief period of silence may follow for us to reflect on the address and the readings today, then the priest invites us to stand to sing as we bring forward our donations of harvest goods for Readifood.

HARVEST HYMN

**For the fruits of his creation,
Thanks be to God;
For his gifts to every nation,
Thanks be to God;
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
Thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
In our world-wide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvest we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

For the harvest of his Spirit,
Thanks be to God;
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God;
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.

THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to God,
the God of all peoples of the earth.
For the colour and forms of your creation
and our place within it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For our daily food,
and for those whose work and skill
bring your good gifts to us,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts; for insight and imagination,
for the skills of research
which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the light and shades of the changing seasons,
and their variety and dependability;
for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For new hope and strength in our communities,
especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you,
we bring our thanks, good Lord;
your mercy endures for ever.

For all in whose lives we see
goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility,
and all the fruit of the Spirit,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the life we have been given,
and for all those whom you have given us to share it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

your mercy endures for ever.

Let us offer our prayers to God for the life of the world
and for all God's people in their daily life and work.

Sit or kneel to pray

THE INTERCESSIONS

During the prayers response is used

Lord of all creation:

hear our prayer

And at the end of the prayers we say

God of grace,

as you are ever at work in your creation,

so fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us

and in all for whom we pray,

that with them and in all that you have made,

your glory may be revealed

and the whole earth give praise to you,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

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.

We greet those around us in the peace of Christ, saying "Peace be with you"

OFFERTORY HYMN

Woodlands

**God is the giver of all things that are;
worlds without end were fashioned by his hand,
from earth's foundations to the furthest star,
in splendour shining, countless as the sand.**

**God is the giver: from his love derive
each conscious being, all our life and breath,
by whose sustaining care we live and thrive,
our strong deliverer at the gates of death.**

God is the giver, always, everywhere,
through every harvest that the world affords;
so may we learn the gifts of God to share:
we are but stewards, earth is still the Lord's.

God is the giver, for he gave his Son
to bear with us our nature and our pain,
who on the cross our forfeit freedom won,
who from the grave to glory rose again.

God is the giver: he it is who showers
such gifts upon us, worthy of a King.
All things through Christ in life and death are ours;
have we no gifts of thankfulness to bring?

O God the giver, in your hands we place
our wealth, our time, and all we call our own.
Take now our love, transform us by your grace,
for all we have and are is yours alone.

When the altar is prepared and the offerings received the president leads the offertory prayers

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Generous God, as we gather around your table called and welcomed by Christ we present this
money, symbol of all the gifts you give to us.
**use it, use us,
in the service of your world
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

Through him you have created us in your own image,
and made us stewards of your good creation.

Through him you teach us to exult in the birds of the air,
the lilies of the field, the precious and life-giving crops of the earth.

Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to die upon the cross
and to rise again for our salvation.

Through him, you begin your work of new creation,
as we look for a new heaven and a new earth
in which your righteousness dwells.

Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,
and give voice to every creature under heaven,
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen**

We kneel or sit as silence is kept before the Lord's Prayer.

**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;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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.**

The priest invites the people to receive Communion, and says

God's Holy gifts for God's Holy people
**Jesus Christ is Holy,
Jesus Christ in Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.**

We sing:

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world
grant us your peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN

**I am the bread of life
You who come to me shall not hunger
and who believe in me shall not thirst
No one can come to me
Unless the father beckons
*And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up
On the last day.***

**The bread that I will give
Is my flesh for the life of the world
And if you eat of this bread
You shall live forever
You shall live forever
*And I will raise you up...***

**Unless you eat
Of the flesh of the Son of Man
And drink of his blood,
You shall not have life within you,
You shall not have life within you.
*And I will raise you up...***

**I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
You who believe in me**

**even though you die,
you shall live for ever.
*And I will raise you up...***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Once communion has been shared we stand when the priest invites us to pray.

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

NOTICES

*We sit to listen to any notices about parish events.
Banns of Marriage may be announced.
If your Birthday falls this week please tell us we would love to celebrate with you.*

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

The Lord be with you
And also with you

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 of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

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

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!

We ourselves are God's own field,
fruit unto His praise to yield.
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear,
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take His harvest home;
from His field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give His angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in His garner evermore.

Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there for ever purified
in God's garner to abide:
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home!