

GARROWBYBENEFICE

Harvest Festival



Introduction

Hymn: Now thank we all our God

Opening Prayer

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 wellbeing through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Presentation of symbols of the harvest

Bowls of earth, water and seed are presented

As we receive this earth, this water and these seeds, let God the Source of all things be praised. Let us glorify Him that he has given us both instinct and the need to join in the work of creation. Let us praise Him for the work of preparation for harvest in all its wonderful variety.

God will give us His good gifts, our land will yield its fruits

All Lord how various are your works; in wisdom you have made them all, and the earth is full of your creatures

Harvest produce is presented

As we receive this produce, let us rejoice in his abundant generosity. Let us be glad in its beauty and determined to see the relief of those in need.

The land has yielded its harvest; God our God has blessed us

All Shout with joy to God all the earth; break into singing and make melody

A shepherd's crook is presented

As we receive this shepherd's crook, let us give thanks for human care, labour and steadfastness. Let us give God praise that he invites us to be his co-workers and stewards of the creation

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing

All The meadows are clothed with sheep; and the hills are girded with joy

God's mercy and peace be with you

All And also with you

Let us pray: Yours O God is the vineyard and its harvest, yours the kingdom of justice and peace. You call your people to tend its growth. Bless the work entrusted to our hands, that we may offer you an abundance of just works and a rich harvest of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Hymn: All creatures of our God and King

Ministry of the Word

A Reading for the Old Testament: Leviticus 23:9-17

The Offering of First Fruits

The Lord spoke to Moses: 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. He shall raise the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may find acceptance; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall raise it. On the day when you raise the sheaf, you shall offer a lamb a year old, without blemish, as a burnt-offering to the Lord. And the grain-offering with it shall be two-tenths of an ephah of choice flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire of pleasing odour to the Lord; and the drink-offering with it shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat no bread or parched grain or fresh ears until that very day, until you have brought the offering of your God: it is a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your settlements.

The Festival of Weeks

And from the day after the sabbath, from the day on which you bring the sheaf of the elevation-offering, you shall count off seven weeks; they shall be complete. You shall count until the day after the seventh sabbath, fifty days; then you shall present an offering of new grain to the Lord. You shall bring from your settlements two loaves of bread as an elevation-offering, each made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of choice flour, baked with leaven, as first fruits to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Verses from Psalm 104

Bless the Lord O my soul

All O Lord my God how excellent is your greatness

You are clothed with majesty and honour

All Wrapped in light as in a garment

The sun knows the hour of its setting

All You make darkness that is may be light

O Lord how manifold are your works, in wisdom you have made them all

All The earth is full of your creatures

When you send forth your spirit they are created

All And you renew the face of the earth

Hymn: For the beauty of the earth setting by John Rutter

GOSPEL READING

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John 6 27-35

All Glory to you O Lord

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

This is the gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Anthem: Thou visitest the earth

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you holy God, creator, redeemer and life giver; you have spoken the world into being and filled it with wonder and beauty.

All For every blessing we have received we give you thanks and praise

Blessed are you holy God for people of every language and culture and for the rich variety you give to life

All For every blessing we have received we give you thanks and praise

Blessed are you holy God for Jesus Christ our saviour, truly divine and truly human, living and dying for us, and going before us to heaven

All For every blessing we have received we give you thanks and praise

Blessed are you holy God for your Spirit, a fire of love burning in our hearts, bringing us to faith and calling us to holiness in the church and in the world

All For every blessing we have received we give you thanks and praise

Lord of the harvest with joy we have offered you thanksgiving for your love in creation; 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.

All Amen

Blessing

May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky, who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water, who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine, lead us, feed us, and change us to reflect the glory of our creator, now and through all eternity and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit remain with you now and forever.

All Amen

Hymn: We plough the fields and scatter