

Service for Week 28th Sept -4th October

Harvest Festival 2026 By Chaplain

Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Creator God open our eyes to the wonders of your creation through the changing seasons. We give our thanks and praise today for our farmers and their harvest which provides the ingredients for our daily bread and our food.

We pray for all those around the world who may suffer through poor harvests or who have insufficient food through wars and conflict. Inspire all who work to bring hope and relief.

Amen

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 them 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

Bible Reading Mt 21:33-43

Jesus said- "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the

vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey.

When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way.

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.'

So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"Therefore, (said Jesus) when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" "Therefore, I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

**Holy words, Holy wisdom,
Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

We celebrate today the Harvest. The safe gathering in of the corn and crops from the fields. –and living around here we can see the evidence of that. This year we have had such a dry summer with lots of sunshine that the harvest has not been very good and has been gathered in very early.

But whenever it is gathered in, we remember and celebrate harvest time –that through the work of man God has provided us with the food we need to live.

In our reading we heard how the landowner expected the tenant farmers to give back to him a share of what they had harvested – that was the fair and right thing to do. But instead, they wanted to keep it all for themselves. When he sent messenger servants they didn't listen and sent them away. And when he sent to own son to get what was rightfully his – they killed him.

This is of course the story of Jesus, isn't it? God who sent and inspired the prophets was not listened to, until eventually God sent his own Son Jesus so that we could hear the message that God is over all things and we owe it to Him to do His will – but Jesus too was rejected and was killed on a Cross.

It reminds us that we all have a duty to God. We enjoy and benefit from all

the good things that God provides for us – the place where we live, the life that we enjoy – the food that we eat. We have so much to be grateful to God for – but sometimes we are like those tenant farmers – we forget who we should thank for what we have- we are reluctant to give any time and thought to giving anything back to God who has provided so much for us.

So let us do that now in a prayer:

Father God, we thank you for the harvest,
the raw ingredients of our food that through our farmers you have provided.

We ask that food is used in a way that will be shared –not just used to feed the rich but to feed the poor and we give thanks for the many people and charities overseas and here such as foodbanks in Britain that work to bring that about.

We give time now to give something back to you.

In our thanks and praise, our appreciation of your bounteous love.

Closing prayer

Father God, We thank you, We thank you for the harvest and for all you provide for us

Day after day, We thank you
In the name of Jesus Christ

Amen

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett