



HARVEST FESTIVAL

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: 37 Come ye thankful people, come.

OPENING PRAYER

We thank you, God, for the harvest, and for all the work that people do:

For farmers near and far, ploughing and sowing, tending and reaping the crops, caring for flocks and herds,

God, we give you thanks **and bless your holy name.**

For fishermen and sea-farers, who bring us food from far-off places, God, we give you thanks **and bless your holy name.**

For bakers and producers, drivers and traders who fill the shops with food,

God, we give you thanks **and bless your holy name.**

For miners and oil rig workers who toil in danger, supplying energy for factories, and warmth for our homes,

God, we give you thanks **and bless your holy name.**

For workers in industry and commerce who use technology to provide us with goods and services,

God, we give you thanks **and bless your holy name.**

For your gifts of soil and seeds, sunshine and rain, and the miracle of nature's life,

God, we give you thanks **and bless your holy name.**

PENITENCE

Lord, you give us this good earth, but we take your generous gifts for granted.

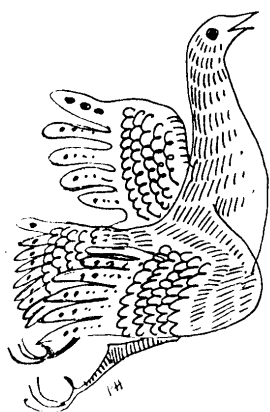
Lord, have mercy: **Lord have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth, but we waste its rich resources.

Christ have mercy: **Christ have mercy**



Lord, you give us this good earth, but we don't share it fairly with all of your children. Lord, have mercy: **Lord have mercy.**



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God our Father, we praise and thank you for your wonderful gifts. Help us to care for what you have made, for the earth, for our rivers, for our beaches, for the food we eat, for all the resources of the earth, and help us to use and share them that people may live in dignity and safety. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen..**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! Do not fear, you animals 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. O children of Zion, be glad 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 later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against 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, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever, Amen



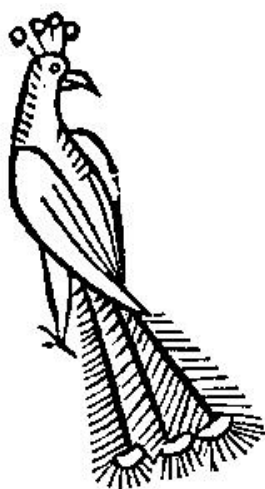
Hymn: 47 We plough the fields and scatter.

GOSPEL

A reading from St Matthew's gospel: Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not worry about your life what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. 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 can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry 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 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, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'

This is the word of the Lord...

THE SERMON The Venerable Ruth Elmes, Rector of Tinahely, Archdeacon of Ossory and Leighlin.



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Hymn: 695 God of mercy, God of grace

INTERCESSIONS

Lord God, you promised to Noah that while the earth remains, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. We offer now our harvest prayers:

Lord of the Harvest, who gives us our daily bread, we pray for all who work on farms, in industry, and on the high seas. We ask for your blessing on their work so that all may enjoy the fruit of their labour. Lord of the Harvest, **hear our prayer.**
Loving Lord, who has given us such a diverse and beautiful world to live in, give us respect for animals; help us to prosper without polluting the earth with waste and toxic chemicals; teach us to be gentle with this good earth, on which our life depends. Lord of the Harvest, **hear our prayer.**

God our Creator, make us more thankful for what we have received, more content with what we have, and more generous to others.
Lord of the Harvest, **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for all who suffer from drought and disasters, war and oppression, disease and pain ... Strengthen them with hope and perseverance, and bless all who go to their help,
Lord of the Harvest, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those, living and departed, who have shown a true respect for your creation. Help us to follow in their footsteps, until with them, we see you face to face, where all is made new in Christ our Lord.
Lord of the Harvest, **hear our prayer.**



**Lord, you are the creator of everything in the world,
and you hate nothing that you create.
Give us a love for your world, and make us good carers of it.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER and THE GRACE

THE PEACE

Lord God, you hold both heaven and earth in a single peace.
Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our anger and sorrows,
and give peace to your Church, peace among nations,
peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Hymn: 361 Now thank we all our God

