

Sunday Worship at Home, 1st August 2021, Ninth Sunday after Trinity, Lammastide.



Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

There is a time for sowing and a time for harvesting,

There is time for God, indeed all times are his.

A Prayer of Confession:

As those who know the generosity of God, let us confess our sins, especially the ways in which we take his good gifts for granted. Lord, you give us this day our daily bread:

Forgive us our trespasses. **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us not be led into temptation. **Christ, have mercy.**

Deliver us from evil. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Collect for Lammastide

Ever loving God, your Son Jesus Christ gave himself as living bread for the life of the world; give us such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

2 Corinthians 9.6-10

St Paul Said:

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And 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. ⁹As it is written,

‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever.’

¹⁰He 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.

Reflection on the reading:

Traditionally Lammass, which is a shortening of Loaf Mass, was celebrated on the first Sunday of August and marks the beginning of harvest. A farmer's wife or local baker would present a loaf bread, made with the first cut wheat, to be used in Communion. The coming weeks are a critical time in arable farming and can be a worrying time for our farmers as they watch both the ripeness of the crops and the weather, hoping for the best of both to coincide. So, it is right and good that we mark the beginning of this time by giving thanks for the work of our farmers and fruit of the land, and praying for God's blessing on them both as the harvest is gathered in. St Paul moves us further on in our thinking as he is not actually talking about food in this passage. It is because God blesses us through his abundant giving that we share that abundance in his service and the service of those around us in need. And this is about sharing everything that God has blessed us with. Including our time, money, gifts and talents. It is summed up well in the offertory prayer "All things come from you and of your own do we give you". We may be focussing our attention on the farming community today, but there is also the challenge in our service for every one of you here to ask yourselves "What am I good at? What do I bring to this table? what is my harvest?" Can you identify three things that you are good at? If you can't think of three things then ask a friend or family member. Then once you have your list of three things. Ask yourself two more questions. Following on from St Paul's exhortation How are you using those three things for God? And are you giving the first fruits, in other words, the best of those three things for God? When you are then you too can follow the Lammastide tradition of offering your own first fruits, along with the first sheaf of wheat and the Lammass loaf, thanking God for them and asking his blessing on them as you continue to harvest what was earlier sown. **Amen.**

The Creed

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Be still and pray: In your prayers, include prayers for the church, the needs of the world and our local community. Particularly pray for our farmers and agricultural workers at this harvest time, for favourable weather and a bountiful harvest. Pray also for healing and peace for those who are ill; and for the souls of those who have recently died and comfort for those who are mourning their loss. ***Finish with The Lord's Prayer:***

Conclusion

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his children; **Amen**

Reverend Eddie