

Resource for Sunday, October 12, 2025

Thanksgiving Sunday

WE HEAR THE STORY

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 *The offering of the first fruits.*

In our first reading, the annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. As they bring their offerings, worshipers remember and proclaim God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel :

¹ “When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground

that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 100

Our Psalm this morning will be spoken in its entirety, recited together with those gathered in the sanctuary and online. We begin:

¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, ¹ all you lands!

**² Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into God’s presence ¹ with a song.**

**³ Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom ¹ we belong;
we are God’s people and the sheep ¹ of God’s pasture.**

**⁴ Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the ¹ courts
with praise;
give thanks and bless God’s ¹ holy name.**

**⁵ Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is ¹ everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from ¹ age to age.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-9 *Do not worry about anything.*

In our second reading, Paul urges the Christians at Philippi to rejoice, to be thankful, and to dwell on everything worthy of praise:

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 6:25-35 *Jesus is the bread of life.*

P: The holy gospel according to ...

C: Glory to you, O God.

²⁵ When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ 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 this person that God has set the seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to Jesus, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one whom God has sent.” ³⁰ So they said, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” ³² 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. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to Jesus, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ 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.”

P: The gospel of Christ.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbours, the church, and all of creation. Each petition will end with the words “Holy One,” and you are invited to respond “surround us with grace and mercy.”

God who is known in grain and vine, the baptismal waters, and in your word, renew the church’s bishops, pastors, deacons, church staff, and all leaders of faith communities, that they live into the fruitful nurturing of all disciples. Holy One, **surround us with grace and mercy.**

God of creation, we give you thanks for sheltering trees, shifting sands, and stabilizing hills. Remind us, as we also learn from our Indigenous siblings, that your care and intention are behind the shaping of all life. Holy One, **surround us with grace and mercy.**

God of the widow and the orphan, we give thanks for all who serve and protect your most beloved. Let us accompany elected officials and civic leaders as faithful advocates for peace and safety. Holy One, **surround us with grace and mercy.**

God of tender assurance, we give thanks for your continued presence in times of need. Accompany those who are displaced from resident lands, victims of injustice, or in need of your sustenance. Comfort those unable to rejoice because of worry or illness. We pray especially for those who’ve asked us for prayer:

José, Terri, Eileen, Martha, Sharon, Tim, Terry, Eleanor, Bea, Abdulaziz, Meryem, Aysa, & Hasan, Alma, Sylvia, George, Harold, as well as those we name aloud at this time...

Holy One, **surround us with grace and mercy.**

God of abundance, we give thanks for the gifts and talents shared in this community of faith. In our diverse experiences of your presence, bless each ministry, gathering, and shared space of prayer and fellowship. Holy One, **surround us with grace and mercy.**

God who feeds us the bread of eternal life, we give thanks for the lives of the saints and our shared memories with those who have died. With full confidence in the resurrection, we honor their faith with our own. Holy One, **surround us with grace and mercy.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love to provide whatever it is that our neighbours and we need; through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**