



Thanksgiving Eve—A Harvest Carol Service

November 24, 2021, 7:00 pm

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Prelude

Division on 'Nun Danket'

Francis Jackson (b.1917)

Welcome and Introduction

We come to sing the song of harvest home, to thank God for the harvest of our gardens and allotments, our fields and farms, bringing food to our tables and meeting many of our physical needs. We celebrate all that is seasonal and local, as we enjoy the fruit of the earth in due season. We give thanks for the fertility of the earth and the creativity of our hands in finding new ways to adapt and change in difficult times. We remember any who struggle to put food on the table, who go hungry when the harvest fails, who suffer from extreme and unseasonal weather due to climate change. We thank God too for the harvest of our community, our common life together, the harvest of our own deepest selves, our growing towards maturity and wisdom. Through hymns and anthems, readings and prayers, we raise the song of harvest home.

Hymn

ELW 693

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Soil

Introduction

Harvest begins with the soil. With increasingly sophisticated tools and machinery and with the use of fertilizers and chemicals, our attention can be deflected from the core vitality of the soil. We need to rediscover a respect for the soil as the basis for sustainable farming for the long term.

Reading

Matthew 13:1–9

Jesus invites us to reflect on different kinds of soil, noticing the fertility of the ground and our readiness to hear his word.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Let us pray.

God the Sower, may the good news of your love for us find the good soil of our hearts, that we may embrace the changes needed to care for your creation and for one another. May our harvest be sustainable, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen, as we follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, Lord of the Harvest.

Amen.

Seed

Introduction

In the face of the environmental crisis, we sometimes feel the problem is too vast for us to make a difference. As individuals we can easily feel overwhelmed, powerless to bring about change. But each of us can make an impact, from small beginnings, from small changes in approach. And a handful of seeds reminds us that great things can grow from tiny seeds. What an encouragement to allow the seed of hope to take root and grow in our lives!

Reading

Mark 4:26–32

Jesus reminds us that even the smallest of seeds can produce a large harvest.

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Let us pray.

God of the mustard seed, from tiny beginnings you bring abundant blessing. Give us wisdom to use your gifts well, to understand the impact of our farming. Give us courage to take even small steps in the face of climate change. Give us generous hearts to share with those who go hungry, as we follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, Lord of the Harvest.

Amen.

Hymn

ELW 508

Please sing verse 1 only.



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



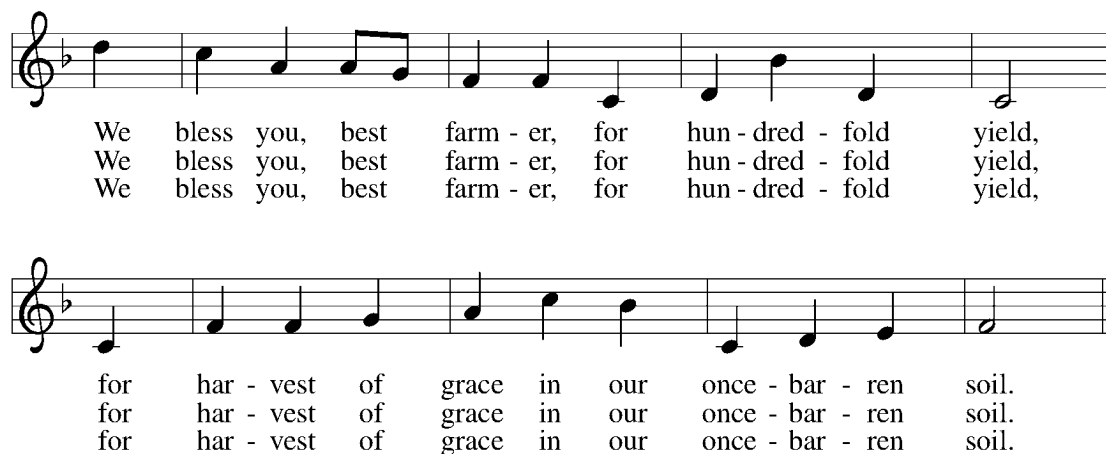
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939
 Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896
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Growth

Introduction

Water is essential for growth; it is the vector for all life. In recent years we have seen our climate changing, with a devastating effect on the impact of water – from scarcity to deluge. Times of drought have led to failed crops; times of flood have seen homes inundated where we have built houses on flood plains. Ezekiel's image of the water of life speaks of restored balance, of enough for all, of abundant life – God's vision of a climate in balance, where wounds are healed.

Reading

Ezekiel 47:6–12

God promises fruitfulness and abundant life, with healing for the nations.

He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?" Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Let us pray.

God of the growing grain, of the abundant earth, you have blessed us with fruitful lands, providing more than enough for our needs, with plenty to share. Help us to honor you in our care for the land, and in the healing of the nations, that the earth may continue to be fruitful, as we follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, Lord of the Harvest.

Amen.

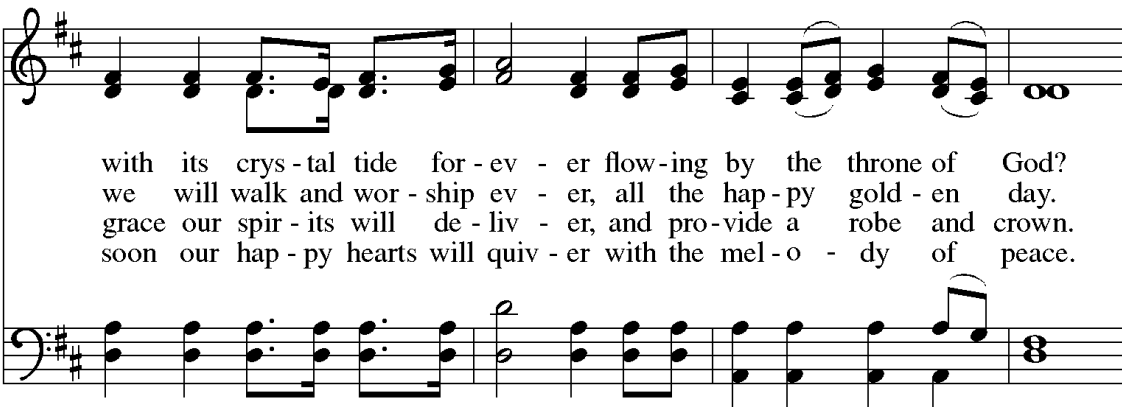
Hymn

Please sing verse 1 only.

ELW 423



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;




with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
 Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

Abundance

Introduction

Our planet is rich and fertile and we have enormous resources to meet our needs, provided we are willing to share. Yet much of our economic life is couched in terms of scarcity and an underlying worry that there might not be enough to go round. The psalmist reminds us of the abundance of nature's provision – enough for everyone and plenty to share.

Reading

Psalm 65:9–13

The earth can be fruitful if we honor God in our care of creation.

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Let us pray.

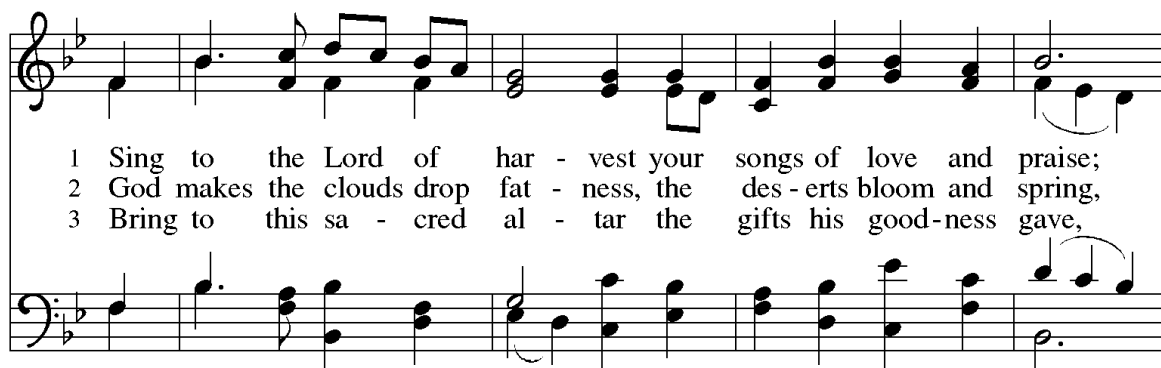
Generous God, in love you have created the universe, in abundance you have provisioned our world, in hope you have called us to know you. Open our eyes to your wonders, open our minds to your mystery, open our hearts to your love, that we may find the path of thanksgiving as we follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, Lord of the Harvest.

Amen.

Hymn

ELW 694

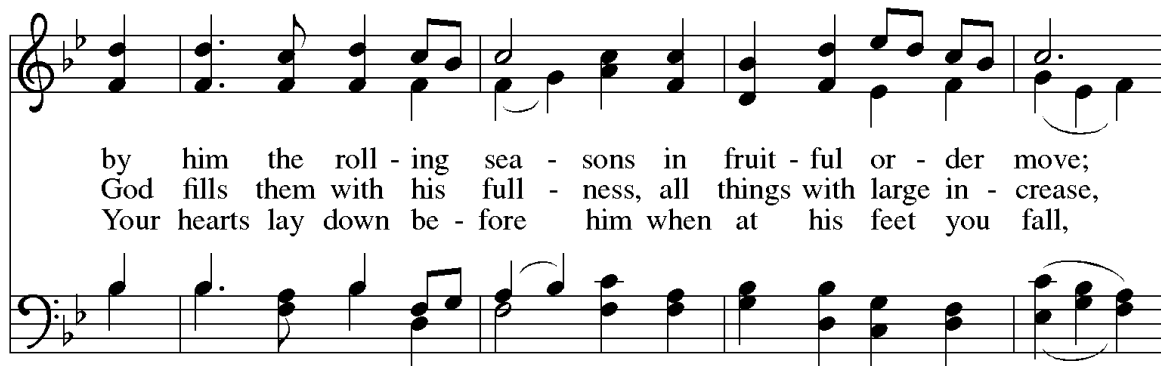
Please sing verse 1 only.



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613

Sharing

Introduction

When is enough enough? The gap between the highest earners and those on low wages or benefits has never been greater. We live in a world of billionaires and beggars. But such evident inequality leads to resentment and social instability. Can there be another way – a way of sharing resources more fairly so that there is enough for all?

Reading

Matthew 14:13–21

Jesus reminds us that God provides enough for everyone.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance and plenty, where we create scarcity and need through our narrow self-interest and greed, break us open, to find in you a generosity of spirit and willingness to share, as we follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, Lord of the Harvest.

Amen.

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or on the Give Plus app.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be;

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
 what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

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 those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
 Santificado sea tu Nombre
 Venga a nosotros tu Reino
 Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
 Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
 Perdona nuestras ofensas
 Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
 Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
 Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
 Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

Blessing

God of the harvest, bless the labors of our hearts and hands, bless the fruits of our cooperation and community, bless the gathering of neighbors and strangers. Awaken us to your longing for a different world, where all are welcomed, valued and appreciated. Give us grace to discern your presence in one another and in the invitation of your Son, Jesus Christ, that, together, we may come to the eternal harvest of your grace.


Amen.

Hymn

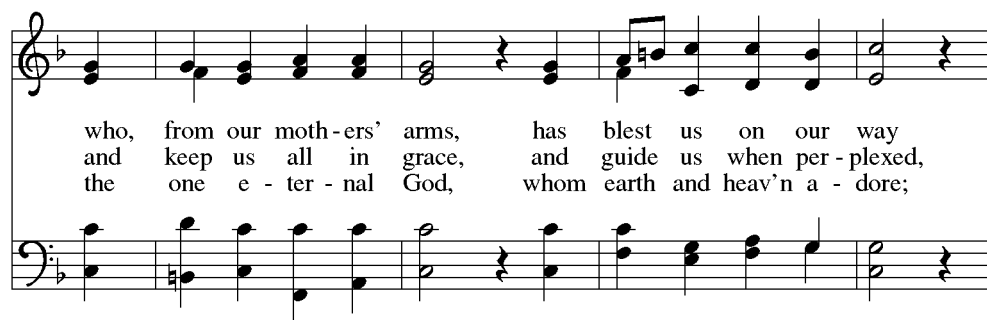
ELW 840



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts, and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



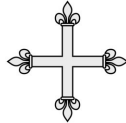
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Postlude

Toccata on 'Nun Danket alle Gott'

Egil Hovland (1924-2013)



WORSHIP LEADERS

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

MUSICIAN

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*