

Worship for 4th October

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God is able to provide us with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, we may share abundantly in every good work.

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.

Let us bring our gifts to the Lord that they may be used for his glory.
May the Spirit of God fill our hearts as we come to meet him in this place.

Invitation to Confession:

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow. Let us now come before him in humility asking for his forgiveness..

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.

Father, in creation you are generous towards us, yet we have sown sparingly
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you show us the way of humility, yet we have given reluctantly;
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you show us the gift of grace, yet we have loved grudgingly;
Lord, have mercy.

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

Collect of the Day

God of grace, ever creating and restoring,
you breathe life into all things
and embrace us with an everlasting love;
help us to grow in wonder and awe,
to embody a spirit of gratitude, and to dream generous dreams;
that, in gathering what we have, we may graciously offer ourselves
to accomplish what you will, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the 1st Letter to Timothy (6: 11-19 NRSV)

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Psalm 104: 26-36 (NRSV)

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.

When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good. When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works; He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being. So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak Lord, your servant is listening for you have the message of eternal life. A!

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (6:19-33 NRSV)

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

'No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

'Therefore I tell you, 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.

Thought for the Day

God has given us the most incredible, beautiful and bountiful planet on which to live. There is food enough for all, yet a privileged few, of which we are part, enjoy this bounty in so many ways, whilst our brothers and sisters in other parts hunger and thirst for a fraction of what we take for granted. May we be people of faith, trying to live out the life of the kingdom here on earth, so that all may be fed and no-one go thirsty. May God help us put our god intentions into practice as we express our thankfulness.

Intercessions

Take some time to reflect on your life this week. Where do you need God's presence and help? Give thanks for where you feel you have received it and pray for those situation - places and people - who are in particular need at this time.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Act of Reception

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Final Prayer

**God of grace,
in our time of darkness
you bless us with gifts of light.
We thank you and bring our offerings to you
- our gifts at home, our gifts online -
and with them we offer our lives;
that they may be used to serve others,
and give you glory.
We make our prayer
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

Blessing

May the God of hope fill us with every blessing,
that we may share in every good work. Amen.