



Welcome to Service of the Word Sunday 4th October 2026 Harvest Thanksgiving

The Greeting

The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Hymn: Come ye thankful people come

Introduction and Presentation of Gifts

Invite people to bring their offerings at this point. Music will play (For the beauty of the Earth)

Thank you God for your goodness that blesses us and the earth.

You are generous.

All: Thank you, God

Thank you God for the people who make this food and products, and those who will share in it.

You are generous.

All: Thank you, God

Thank you God for this place, this city and this community, this church, and for your faithful love over many generations.

You are generous.

All: Thank you, God

Invitation to confession

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources
of the world.

Lord, you give justice
to those who are suffering,
and bread to those who hunger.
Lord, have mercy

All: **Lord, have mercy**

Lord, you loose those who are bound
and open the eyes of the blind.
Christ, have mercy

All: **Christ, have mercy**

Lord, you watch over the stranger in the land and uphold the
orphan and the widow.
Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy**

Absolution

May God our Father forgive us our sins,
and bring us to the fellowship of his table
with his saints for ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 9. 6 - 15

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And 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.

As it is written,

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

He 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.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Luke 12.16–30

Jesus told the people a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”

But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, 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, how much more will he clothe you - you of little faith!

And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.’

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Hymn: We plough the fields and scatter

The Athanasian Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

All: 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?

All: 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?

All: We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used:

Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray the Collect for today.
Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Hymn: Angel voices, ever singing

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God,
the God of all peoples of the earth.
For the colour and forms of your creation
and our place within it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

All: your mercy endures for ever.

For our daily food,
and for those whose work and skill
bring your good gifts to us,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

All: your mercy endures for ever.

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts;
for insight and imagination,
for the skills of research
which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

All: your mercy endures for ever.

For the light and shades of the changing seasons,
and their variety and dependability;

for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

All: **your mercy endures for ever.**

For new hope and strength in our communities,
especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you,
we bring our thanks, good Lord;

All: **your mercy endures for ever.**

For all in whose lives we see
goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility,
and all the fruit of the Spirit,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

All: **your mercy endures for ever.**

For the life we have been given,
and for all those whom you have given us to share it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

All: **your mercy endures for ever.**

Notices

The Blessing

May God our creator,
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,
bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with
you, now and always,

All: **Amen**

Hymn: Sing to God new songs of worship

Dismissal

Freely you have received, freely give.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **in the name of Christ.**
 Amen.

Exit Music

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