

Sunday 3rd October 2021 Harvest

Collect

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth
in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need
and for our own wellbeing;
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.
Amen.

First reading

Joel 2:21-27

21 Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!
22 Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
23 O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain[c] for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
25 I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

5 May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Second reading

1 Timothy 6:6-10

6 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; 7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; 8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich

some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Gospel reading

Matthew 6:25-33

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? 26 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? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 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? 31 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. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

A Harvest Reflection

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. We plough the fields and scatter. Come ye thankful people come. Harvest time is here again and in this rural part of the country it is obvious. Fodder has been gathered to feed stock during the winter. Local apples, plums and other fruits are in our shops. We are able to experience the passage of the seasons more easily in the countryside; to appreciate the beauty of the different times of the year and yet autumn can be a melancholy time, as the old year begins to die and we sense our own mortality perhaps. But God always has a plan for us, wherever we are on life's journey.

“The fields are white for harvest but the labourers are few”.
Each one of us can labour in God's fields, bringing in the harvest of souls for the Kingdom. From the youngest to the oldest we can all help to bring the harvest home and celebrate God's love for us and the bounty with which he supplies us.

Sister Julian