

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

## YEAR B

**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 well-being; 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**

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.  
Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! 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. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 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. 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. 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM **Psalms 126**

**R** Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

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

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations,  
'The Lord has done great things for them.'  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

### SECOND READING

*Alternative readings:*

#### **1 Timothy 2.1–7**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.  
My dearly beloved, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our

Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all – this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Or*

#### **1 Timothy 6.6–10**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.  
There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 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. 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL

#### **Matthew 6.25–33**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
Jesus said to his disciples: '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.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**