



Welcome to St Alban's Church Harvest Festival (Trinity 18)

OPENING HYMN *Matthias Claudius (1740-1815) Tr. Jane M. Campbell*

1. We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord, for all his love.*

2. He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.

3. We thank thee, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good;
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.

God has blessed us, but still God's children go hungry:
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

God has blessed us but still the poor cry out for justice:
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

God has blessed us, but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth:
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you † pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Corinthians 9.6-end

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ 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. ⁹ As it is written,
‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever.’

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings

to God. ¹³Through 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, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

*After the reading ...*This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

THE GOSPEL Luke 12.16-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰ 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?" ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

²² He 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. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ 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! ²⁵ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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! ²⁹ And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

*After the reading...*This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers we say together:

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

THE PEACE

Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called children of God.
We meet in the name of Christ and we share his peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you have created the heavens and the earth,
and formed us in your own image.
In the fullness of time you sent forth your Son, your eternal Word,
who laid down his life for our salvation
and rose from the grave, the first-fruits of your new creation.

You send forth your holy and life-giving Spirit
to give life to our mortal bodies
and to renew the face of the earth.
Therefore with all the heavenly hosts,
we give voice to everything that you have made,
and say the eternal hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper
with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for
many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of
me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We say together...

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

**God of truth, we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life:
Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God the Father, who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation. **Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,
help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *Henry Alford (1810 - 1871)*

**1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our needs to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest-home.**

**2. We ourselves are God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**3. For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home,
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.**

**4. Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
raise the song of harvest home
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there, forever purified,
in God's garner to abide;
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home!**

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