

Welcome everybody to our Harvest Festival.
We are here to celebrate together and to thank God
for his goodness.

Happy are those who are helped by the God of Jacob.
Their hope is in the Lord their God.

He made heaven and earth, the sea and everything
in it.

He remains loyal forever.

The Lord does what is fair for those who have been
wronged.

He gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free.

Psalm 146:5-7

“I will tell you the kind of special day I want.
I want you to free the people you have put in prison
unfairly.

Undo their chains.

Free those to whom you are unfair.

Free them from their hard labor.

I want you to share your food with hungry people.

I want you to bring poor, homeless people into your
own homes.

When you see someone who has no clothes, give him
yours.

Don't refuse to help your own relatives.

If you do these things, your light will shine like the
dawn.

Then your wounds will quickly heal.

Your God will walk before you, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind.

Then you will call to the Lord, and the Lord will answer you.

You will cry out to the Lord, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

“You should stop making trouble for others.

You should stop using cruel words and pointing your finger at others.

You should feed those who are hungry.

You should take care of the needs of those who are troubled.

Then your light will shine in the darkness.

And you will be bright like sunshine at noon.

The Lord will always lead you.

He will satisfy your needs in dry lands.

He will give strength to your bones.

You will be like a garden that has much water.

You will be like a spring that never runs dry.

Your people will rebuild the old cities that are now in ruins.

You will rebuild the foundations of these ancient cities.

You will be known for repairing the broken places.

You will be known for rebuilding the roads and houses.

Isaiah 58:6-12 ICB

One of the men in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide with me the property our father left us.”

But Jesus said to him, “Who said that I should be your judge or decide how to divide the property between you two?” Then Jesus said to them, “Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. A man’s life is not measured by the many things he owns.”

Then Jesus used this story: “There was a rich man who had some land, which grew a good crop of food. The rich man thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones! I will put all my grain and other goods together in my new barns.’”

Then I can say to myself, I have enough good things stored to last for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!’

“But God said to that man, ‘Foolish man! Tonight you will die. So who will get those things you have prepared for yourself?’

“This is how it will be for anyone who stores things up only for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 12:13-21 ICB

For all the harvests of the world, we come to say **thank you God.**

For those who work to gather the crops, we come to say **thank you God.**

For those who fill our shops with food, we come to say **thank you God.**

For food to eat and food to share, we come to say **thank you God.**

For those who help provide for others in need, we come to say **thank you God.**

For this our Harvest Festival Day, we come to say **thank you God.**

God, we are sorry for the times we are selfish and don't think of others' needs.

Father, Forgive us.

For the times we have wasted and spoiled your gifts of creation.

Father, Forgive us.

For the times we have hurt our families and friends.

Father, Forgive us.

For the times we were unkind and impatient with those who needed our time and concern.

Father, Forgive us.

For the times we were too weak to stand up for what was right.

Father, Forgive us.

Amen

Generous God,
We thank you for the gift of food –
For how it brings us together and nourishes us.
We pray for those without, whose harvests and store
cupboards are empty,
Help us work together to share the world's resources
so that everyone can be fed.
Lord of the Harvest, **hear our prayers.**

Sustaining God,
We thank you for the gift of those who farm and
prepare our food –
For their labour, their innovation and their care.
We pray that everyone will be able to work with
dignity, that there will be no more poverty,

Help us work together to call for just and fair systems of pay and working conditions.

Lord of the Harvest, **hear our prayers.**

All-loving God,

We thank you for the gift of love –

For our families, friends and community.

We pray for people in the world who are without a family, shelter, safety, love and care.

Help us to show your love and care however we are able.

Lord of the Harvest, **hear our prayers.**

Amen

We will now say the Lord's prayer together.



Creator God, on our Harvest Festival day we bring to you our lives and our Harvest gifts.

Bless the work of REACH and the Foodbank and bless all the lives they reach and serve.

Amen.

As we go out from here,
Sow a seed of hope within us, that we might grow in
goodness, patience and kindness.
Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might
grow forgiveness, compassion and righteousness.
Sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others
would be blessed in our family, friends and
community.
May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within
us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all.
Amen.