

**Ministry Development Committee  
Diocese of Ballarat**

# **Harvest Festival Resources including material for the Dignity of Human Labour**



**For use during the  
'Season of Creation' (1 September - 4 October)  
or at other times when Harvest locally occurs**

# INTRODUCTION

*“Each year, from 1 September, the Global Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4 October, St Francis of Assisi Day, many Anglicans use the Season of Creation – also known as Creation Time – to pray and celebrate with creation, focus on the story of Earth, and commit to a ministry of healing Earth.”*

<https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/resources/season-of-creation.aspx>

As part of this ecumenical effort, the Diocese of Ballarat is encouraging parishes to mark the season with a Harvest Festival, or themed prayers during the season.

Additionally during this season, your parish may wish to include particular prayers that recognise and ask God’s blessing upon daily work and labour – and suggestions are provided for this too.

The Ministry Development Committee has compiled these resources to support you to mark this season with a minimal time commitment, and we hope you will make this part of your church’s year.

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- Common Worship
- Intercessions and Various Prayers

## **Prayers for Industry and the Dignity of Human Labour**

## **Alternative Resources**

*Note: These sit outside the general scope of these Diocesan materials, however they may be relevant in your context.*

- Prayers for Specific Occasions
- Traditional Language Collects

# THANKSGIVING FOR THE HARVEST

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

### *Opening Sentence*

Sow for yourselves righteousness;  
reap steadfast love;  
break up your fallow ground;  
for it is time to seek the Lord,  
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

*Hosea 10.12*

### *Introduction to Confession*

God's whole creation groans.  
The land produces thorns and thistles and longs to be set free.  
Our sin affects all around us.  
So let us confess our sins in penitence and faith:

### *Kyrie confession*

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

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

Lord, you watch over the stranger in the land  
and uphold the orphan and the widow.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**      *cf Psalm 146.6,7,9*

### *Absolution*

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to  
him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Gloria in excelsis may be used, the people standing:*

**Gloria to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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.**

*This Harvest Collect may be used in place of the prayer of the day.*

Lord of the harvest,  
make us faithful stewards in the labour you have called us to share,  
planting and cultivating, planning and protecting,  
and offering to you the return that you require,  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*After the first reading, the following may be said or sung:*

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The psalm or canticle follows the first reading and the following may be used in place of the psalm of the day:*

The earth has yielded its harvest; **God, our God, has blessed us.**

You visit the earth and water it; **you make it very plenteous.**

You soften the ground with showers; **and bless the increase of it.**

You crown the year with your goodness; **and your paths overflow with plenty.**

The meadows are clothed with sheep; **the valleys stand so thick with corn, they shout for joy and sing.**

The earth has yielded its harvest; **God, our God, has blessed us.**

*cf Psalm 65.8, 10, 11, 13; 67.7*

*After the second reading, the following may be said or sung:*

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*This Gospel Acclamation may be used*

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting.

Gather the fruit for eternal life. *cf John 4.35, 36*

**Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*At the end*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## THE SERMON

### THE CREED

*A creed of the church may be said. The people stand.*

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the almighty**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,**

**Light from Light, true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary**

**and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son**

**is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The intercessions are introduced with the following words: "The bidding is 'Lord of the harvest' and the response 'in your mercy hear us' "*

Let us pray to God, the Lord of the harvest,  
that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.  
Lord of creation, we see that the fields are ripe for harvesting:  
we pray for your Church,  
that it may be ready to gather fruit for eternal life.  
Lord of the harvest, **in your mercy hear us.**  
You have created the universe by your eternal Word,  
and have blessed humankind in giving us dominion over the earth:  
we pray for the world,  
that we may honour and share its resources,  
and live in reverence for the creation  
and in harmony with one another.  
Lord of the harvest, **in your mercy hear us.**  
Your Son has promised that the Spirit will lead us into all truth:  
we pray for the community in which you have set us,  
for one another and for ourselves,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace.  
Lord of the harvest, **in your mercy hear us.**  
You have given your people a rich land,  
yet by sin we have made a world of suffering and sorrow:  
we pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,  
that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.  
Lord of the harvest, **in your mercy hear us.**  
Your Son Jesus Christ is the first-fruits of the resurrection  
and will reap the harvest of the dead at the end of time:  
we pray that he will gather us all together  
with those who have gone before  
in the banquet of the age to come.  
Lord of the harvest, **in your mercy hear us.**

Hear our prayers almighty God, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who prays with us and for us. To him be praise for ever.

**Amen.**

*Introduction the Peace*

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. *cf Galatians 5.22,23*  
Therefore let us offer one another a sign of God's Peace.

*The bringing forward of symbols of the harvest*

Let us bring forward symbols of the harvest,  
gifts that God has created and his sun and rain have nurtured.

**Thanks be to God.**

*As each harvest offering is brought forward, it is named and the people respond, "Thanks be to God."*

For the Harvest of [wheat, hay, grain, donated goods etc]

**Thanks be to God.**

*Bread and wine are brought forward with the following words:*

Bring forward the grain and the grape, for our Saviour took bread  
and wine to feed us with his body and his blood, given and shed for  
the life of the world. Let us feed on him by faith with thanksgiving.

**Thanks be to God.**

We bless you Lord God, creator of the world;  
from you every good and perfect gift comes.  
Accept these offerings of ours  
as first fruits of our Love and gratitude,  
and enable us to give ourselves wholly  
in the life of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The people stand.*

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 our thanks and praise.**

*Eucharistic Preface*

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

Through him you have created us in your own image,

and made us stewards of your good creation.

Through him you teach us to exult in the birds of the air,

the lilies of the field, the precious and life-giving crops of the earth.

Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,

giving him to die upon the cross

and to rise again for our salvation.

Through him, you begin your work of new creation,  
as we look for a new heaven and a new earth

in which your righteousness dwells.

Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,

and give voice to every creature under heaven,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

*The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving begins, and after the words "your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying" the following is said or sung:*

**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.**

*The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving continues, and after the words "do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me" the following is said or sung:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving continues, and after the words "we worship you Father in songs of never-ending praise:" the following is said or sung:*

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Agnus Dei may be used.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
**grant us your peace.**

*Communion is distributed in the customary way.*

*Prayer after Communion*

Most gracious God,  
you have made us one with all your people  
in heaven and on earth.

You have fed us with the bread of life,  
and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you,  
and ask that our daily living  
may be part of the life of your kingdom.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your spirit to live and work to your  
praise and glory.**

*Notices may be given.*

*Blessing*

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is the source of all goodness and growth,  
pour his blessing upon all things created,  
and upon you his children,  
that you may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all  
peoples;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

*Dismissal*

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,  
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Text is based on A Prayer Book for Australia 1995, Common Worship 2000, material  
from Uniting in Worship 2 and the Harvest Collect comes from the Anglican Church  
of Central Queensland.*



# COMMON WORSHIP MATERIALS

Common Worship materials by the Church of England have been authorised for use in the Diocese of Ballarat are the first choice for resources for the agricultural year. While accommodation will need to be made for seasons in the southern hemisphere, and the particular industries in your local area, these resources should fulfil most needs.

**The Common Worship website includes the following:**

- Creation theme resources
- Plough Sunday
- Rogationtide
- Lammastide
- Harvest Thanksgiving
- Prayers in times of agricultural crisis.

You can find these resources on the Church of England website, here:  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-4>

## INTERCESSIONS AND VARIOUS PRAYERS

Perhaps the simplest way to mark this time is to incorporate Harvest intercessions into your standard Sunday service. You have three primary options here:

**Option 1: Occasional Prayers from A Prayer Book for Australia, especially:**

**Thanksgiving For the beauty of the earth p. 220**

We thank you, God of all loveliness,  
for the beauty of earth and sky and sea;  
for the richness of mountains, deserts and rivers;  
for the songs of birds and the beauty of flowers.

We praise you for these good gifts,  
and pray that we may guard our heritage,  
to the honour and glory of your name. *Amen.*

## **Option 2: Creation Themed Resources from the Anglican Church of Australia**

The liturgical Commission has produced a variety of prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving with a theme of Creation and the environment. These can be found here: <https://anglican.org.au/our-work/liturgy-worship/themes-and-events/>

Themes include:

- Climate Change
- Environmental degradation and pollution
- Farming Communities – Prayers of Intercession
- Farming Communities – Thanksgiving for the Seed
- Rain
- Salinity
- Solar Energy
- Sustainable Cities
- Thanksgiving for all creatures great and small
- Thanksgiving for wilderness
- Thanksgiving, Collect, Intercessions – Garden Theme

**Option 3: Common Worship Intercessions: (either H1 or H2 could be used)**  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-4#mmm363>

# PRAYERS FOR INDUSTRY AND THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LABOUR

**For industry and business – A Prayer Book for Australia p. 207.**

God of all creation,

we pray for all who work in the offices and factories of this land.

Enable them to live and work together in harmony and safety,

and offer to you the fruits of their toil for the good of all.

Give respect and dignity to all who labour,

discernment and skill to those who develop new technologies,

and wisdom to all who carry great responsibilities.

You have given us the knowledge to produce plenty;

give us also the will to bring it within the reach of all,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**For Vocation in Daily Work - Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (2007)**

**p.261**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**For Labor Day - Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (2007) p.261**

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

# ALTERNATIVE RESOURCES

## Prayers for Specific occasions

*Book of Blessings - Roman Catholic Resource from the Catholic Book Publishing Corporation 1989*

There is too much material to provide here, but please consult Part II 'Blessings related to buildings and to various forms of human activity'. This includes services and blessings for Farm equipment, seeds, tools, flocks, fishing boats etc. There are options for services led by clergy or lay persons.

## Traditional Language Collects

*Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (2007)*  
*Prayers for Various Occasions– Sections 19, 24, 25*

### *I. For fruitful seasons*

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that thy gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who constantly receive good things from thy hand, may always give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### *II. For Commerce and Industry*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with thy people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to thy will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### *III. For stewardship of creation*

O merciful Creator, thy hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us, we beseech thee, ever thankful for thy loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### *For Vocation in Daily Work*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who declarest thy glory and showest forth thy handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us, we beseech thee, in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work which thou givest us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one that serveth, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### *For Labor Day*

Almighty God, who hast so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*If errors or omissions are found, feedback on this document is most welcome to the Ministry Development Committee of the Diocese of Ballarat.*