Readings for Harvest Thanksgiving, Year B

# The First Reading: Joel 2:21-27

# God restores fertility to the land

The Lord said:

Do not be afraid, land of Judah;  
    be glad and rejoice.  
Surely the Lord has done great things!  
    Do not be afraid, you wild animals,  
    for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green.  
The trees are bearing their fruit;  
    the fig-tree and the vine yield their riches.  
Be glad, people of Zion,  
    rejoice in the Lord your God,  
for he has given you the autumn rains  
    because he is faithful.  
He sends you abundant showers,  
    both autumn and spring rains, as before.  
The threshing-floors will be filled with grain;  
    the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

‘I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten –  
    the great locust and the young locust,  
    the other locusts and the locust swarm –  
my great army that I sent among you.  
You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,  
    and you will praise the name of the Lord your God,  
    who has worked wonders for you;  
never again will my people be shamed.  
Then you will know that I am in Israel,  
    that I am the Lord your God,  
    and that there is no other;  
never again will my people be shamed.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

# Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
    we were like those who dreamed.  
Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
    our tongues with songs of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
    ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
    and we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
    like streams in the Negev.  
Those who sow with tears  
    will reap with songs of joy.  
Those who go out weeping,  
    carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy,  
    carrying sheaves with them.

# The Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

# Pray and give thanks

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle – I am telling the truth, I am not lying – and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

# The Gospel: Matthew 6:25-33

# Do not worry - God cares for you

Jesus said: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

‘And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*This is the gospel of the Lord*

**Praise be to you, O Christ**