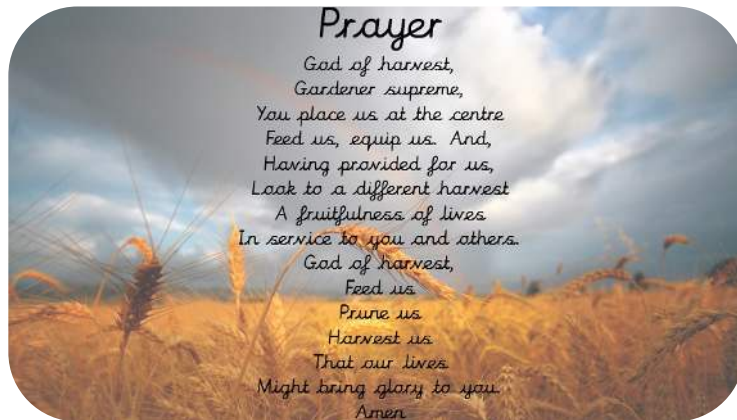


## POST COMMUNION

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.

## FINAL HYMN: 'Fill Your Hearts with Joy and Gladness' – (155)

All our harvest gifts today will go to the Manna Centre which has been operating in London Bridge since 1982. It is a day centre for homeless people and those in need. It is open 7 days a week, 51 weeks of the year. Approximately half of their service users are sleeping rough, 13% in secure socially rented accommodation and the remaining 60% in some form of temporary accommodation (friends, hostels & privately rented accommodation). Services available every day include: Breakfast and lunch; Hot showers (soap and towels provided); Housing and welfare advice. Our gifts are going to people who really need them.



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16th Sunday after Trinity

15th September

## GATHERING HYMN: 'Today I Awake'

Today I awake and God is before me,  
at night, as I dreamt, he summoned the day  
for God never sleeps, but patterns the morning  
with slithers of gold or glory in grey.



Today I arise and Christ is beside me.  
He walked through the dark to scatter new light.  
Yes, Christ is alive, and beckons his people  
to hope and to heal, resist and invite.

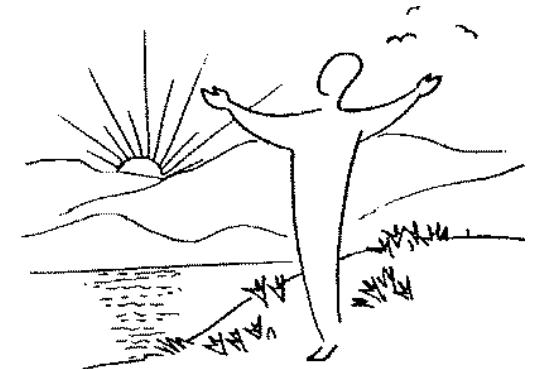
Today I affirm the Spirit within me  
at worship and work, in struggle and rest.  
The Spirit inspires all life which is changing  
from fearing to faith, from broken to blessed.

Today I enjoy the Trinity round me,  
above and beneath, before and behind;  
the Maker, the Son, the Spirit together –  
they called me to life and call me their friend.

Words and Music John L. Bell & Graham Maule

## COLLECT:

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.**



## FIRST READING

Joel 2: 21-24

The Lord works wonders and does great things.  
So tell the soil to celebrate  
and wild animals to stop being afraid.  
Grasslands are green again;  
fruit trees and fig trees are loaded with fruit.  
Grapevines are covered with grapes.  
People of Zion, celebrate in honour of the Lord your God!  
He is generous and has sent  
the autumn and spring rains in the proper seasons.  
Grain will cover your threshing places;  
jars will overflow with wine and olive oil.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

## SECOND READING

I Timothy 6: 6-10

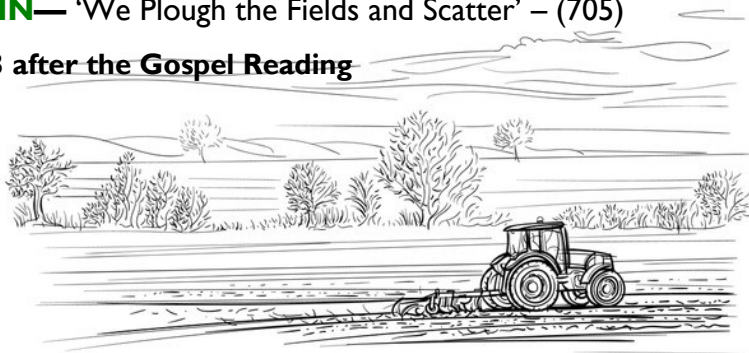
Religion does make your life rich, by making you content with what you have. We didn't bring anything into this world, and we won't take anything with us when we leave. So we should be satisfied just to have food and clothes. People who want to be rich fall into all sorts of temptations and traps. They are caught by foolish and harmful desires that drag them down and destroy them. The love of money causes all kinds of trouble. Some people want money so much they have given up their faith and caused themselves a lot of pain.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

## GOSPEL HYMN— 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' – (705)

We sing verse 3 after the Gospel Reading



## GOSPEL

Matthew 6: 25-36

I tell you not to worry about your life. Don't worry about having something to eat, drink, or wear. Isn't life more than food or clothing? Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth much more than birds?



Can worry make you live longer? Why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow. They don't work hard to make their clothes. But I tell you that Solomon with all his wealth wasn't as well clothed as one of them. God gives such beauty to everything that grows in the fields, even though it is here today and thrown into a fire tomorrow. God will surely do even more for you! Why do you have such little faith?

Don't worry and ask yourselves, "Will we have anything to eat? Will we have anything to drink? Will we have any clothes to wear?" Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things.

Your Father in heaven knows you need all of these. But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well.

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

**HYMN OF THE GIFTS:** 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' – (26)

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

'Gather Around for the Table is Spread' – (181)

'As Your Family Lord, See Us Here' – (43)

'Think of a World without Any Flowers' – (662)