

An Evening Service for Harvest Thanksgiving

HYMN : “ Come, ye thankful people, come ” (R.C.H. 619)
or other suitable hymn.

Minister : The Lord be with you ;

All : And with thy spirit.

Minister : The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof ;

All : The world and they that dwell therein.

Minister : O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice
of His praise to be heard ;

All : Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our
feet to be moved.

Minister : Let us pray.

Prayers of thanksgiving, with confession and absolution

Metrical Psalm 65, verses 1, 2, 11-13, Tune Crediton

“ HEAR THE WORD OF GOD . . . ”

I. *The first lesson—the duty to God*
(*the Law of the First fruits*)

Brief Homily

Reading : Deuteronomy chap. 26, verses 1-11

Hymn : “ Fair waved the golden corn ” (R.C.H. 494)

Tune Old 134th, in Psalter 167 ;

or an anthem such as : “ Bless the Lord, O my soul ” by
Armstrong Gibbs (*Oxford Easy Anthem Book* 24)

II. *The second lesson—the duty to neighbour*
(*the Law of Gleaning*)

Brief homily

Reading : Deuteronomy chap. 24, vv 19-22

Ruth chap. 2, vv 14-18

Hymn : ‘ Son of God, eternal Saviour. . . ’ (R.C.H. 359)

vv 1, 2 ;

or other hymn or anthem on the theme of brotherly love.

III. *The third lesson—the duty to generations to come*
(*the Law of Jubilees*)

Brief Homily

Reading : Leviticus chap. 25, vv. 8-12, 39-41

Hymn : " Son of God, eternal Saviour. . ." (R.C.H. 359)

vv. 3, 4 ;

or other hymn or anthem of social responsibility such as " Christ is the world's true light " (*Oxford Easy Anthem Book*, 3)

IV. *The fourth lesson—the summary of the law*

Reading : St. Matthew chap. 22, vv. 35-38

(Or the fourth lesson may be omitted and the prayers introduced as follows from R.C.H. 721).

Minister : Let us pray.

Jesus said : The first of all the commandments is : The Lord our God is one Lord : and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment.

All : Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister : And the second is like unto it, namely this : Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

All : Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister : A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another ; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

All : Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.

Minister : Let us pray, for and for (here the Minister may bid the congregation).

Prayers, including intercession and dedication

The Lord's Prayer

THE OFFERINGS

Dedication of the Offerings

" Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost ; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end ". *Amen*

A *Hymn*, such as " Almighty God, Thy word is cast . . ." (R.C.H. 295) or a hymn of praise for the Providence of God.

The Benediction

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

Since the Church is likely to be decorated for the forenoon service and therefore seems to pre-suppose that the evening service also will be on the theme of harvest, it is desirable that such a service should follow a different pattern.

1. In the above service the Lessons may profitably follow the Exposition, which should be brief in each instance, as illustration from Holy Scripture of the theme of the Exposition.

2. It is not necessary, nor is it desirable, that each anthem or hymn should refer specifically to ears of corn and harvest fields. There is room also for the quieter note of worship, dedication and social purpose.

3. Careful study of the meaning of the Jubilee Year should be made by the preacher, so that its significance is understood by the congregation in the setting of Harvest Festival; or else this first section may be omitted and the first two more fully developed.

4. Since the words of anthems are not easily articulated by choirs, however skilled, so as to be readily caught by the congregation, they might profitably be printed in a cyclostyled form, which should also provide the congregation with the responsive parts. Otherwise the Minister, instead of "announcing" the anthem(s) might simply read the words of the piece, which the Choir would then interpret by singing them. Excess of "announcement" interrupts the flow of too many services, even in the ordinary course of worship.