



Bryn Athyn Church

Happy Thanksgiving! As children, we are taught by our parents to say thanks to those who show us kindness. Even when we *could* do it on our own, it's polite to express gratitude when someone tries to help out. The difference with thanking the Lord, though, is that it's impossible for us to get things done without Him. Thanksgiving is a time of year that especially reminds us to be grateful to the Lord for all His blessings toward us.

Musicians

Penn View Brass Band, directed by John Shaw
Bryn Athyn Choristers, directed by Robin Bier
Leah Martin, organ

Preludes

March Goldcrest - James Anderson
Novella - Ben Hollings
Psalm of Praise - James Curnow
Ave Verum Corpus - W. A. Mozart, arr. Riex Van der Velde
Laudate - H. P. Larry, arr. Jef Penders
Jubilate Deo from the Unison Service - Charles V. Stanford

Procession

Battle Pavane - Tielman Susato, arr. Lisette De Luca
Crown Him with Many Crowns – George Elvey, arr. Van der Velde

Postlude

Arsenal - Jan Van der Roost

Order of Service

Come Sing to the Lord of Harvest..... 13

Opening of the Lord's Word

Thanksgiving Recitation

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Psalm 95:1-7

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

The God of Harvest Praise.....22

Reading from the Word

Interlude

For the Beauty of the Earth - John Rutter
(*Bryn Athyn Choristers*)

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Message from Rev. Jeffrey O. Smith

Grateful Awareness

Fruit Offering Procession

The First Fruits.....11

Blessing

Closing of the Lord's Word

For Peace and for Plenty 17

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us." Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

Arcana Coelestia 9223

The fact that firstfruits were given to Jehovah symbolized the idea that the most important aspect of religion was to give the Lord rather than ourselves the credit for the good actions and true ideas of our faith. Giving the Lord the credit means knowing, acknowledging, and believing that it all comes from Him, not from ourselves... The reason firstfruits have this symbolism is that they were offerings, which were a way of giving thanks for the produce and of acknowledging blessings from the Lord. Such offerings were therefore a way of acknowledging that everything comes from Him. In an inner sense, they were an acknowledgment of the good impulses and true ideas of faith that are symbolized by a harvest, grain, oil, new wine, wine, wool, and fruit of which firstfruits were given.