

Lammastide family service



All Hymn numbers, unless otherwise stated, taken from Hymns Old and New (New Anglican Edition 1996)

Today is Lammastide

Lammastide corresponds to the Hebrew Feast of Weeks when a sheaf of the first of the barley harvest was offered. Traditionally, the first fruits belonged to God, and were offered to God. This included crops, animals, and people!

In the Bible, as Jesus was the first born son, Mary and Joseph travelled from Bethlehem to the Temple in Jerusalem when he was eight days old and sacrificed two doves in thanksgiving (Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2).

Lammastide always falls on August 1st. The word 'Lammastide' first appears in the writings of King Alfred and is thought to be derived from a English word for 'loaf' followed by 'mass'. In the early English church it was customary to consecrate bread made from the first-ripe corn on this day, probably in thanksgiving for the harvest.

In our service today we bring some wheat and barley and a loaf of bread as symbols of the tradition of Lammastide.

Lammastide is an older tradition than harvest festivals. The latter celebrates the time when 'all the harvest is safely gathered in'.

Stand as the priest walks into church

Welcome

Hymn Morning has broken (HO&N 337)

Gathering prayer

With love in our hearts for God and for one another, we gather in this place.

We pray that Jesus, the bread of life will unite all people in love and thanksgiving.

Amen.

Words of thanks

We praise God for the rich soil of the countryside, for the corn springing out of the earth, for the power of tractors and machines and for all those who will gather in the harvest this year around the world.

We thank you for all who work on farms in this area, often unnoticed. We thank you Lord for the bread given us as our daily food and for that Bread of Life which we receive at the Lord's Table.

Confession

We enjoy the luxury of bread, fresh to us each day but do not always thank you for all your gifts. In a world where many lack daily bread help us on this Lammastide Day to be grateful for food and to eat wisely.

Amen.

Prayer of forgiveness

May our sins be forgiven,
Our blindness, deafness and coldness of heart be healed.
May your renewing Spirit rest upon us
And fill our nation with your love and hope.
In Jesus' Name.

Amen

Prayer for the Day

Ever loving God,
your Son Jesus Christ
gave himself as living bread
for the life of the world;
give us such a knowledge of his presence
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
to serve you continually;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn All things bright and beautiful (HO&N 21) *sing verses 1,2 and 3*

Remain standing for the reading

Bible Reading John 6 verses 5-12

Jesus stood up and saw a large crowd coming towards him. He said to Philip, 'Where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?' (Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.) Philip answered him, 'We would all have to work a month to buy enough bread for each person here to have a little piece.' Another disciple there was Andrew. He was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew said 'Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but that is not enough for so many people.' Jesus said, 'Tell the people to sit down'. This was a very grassy place. There were about 5,000 men who sat down there.

Then Jesus took the loaves of bread. He thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people who were sitting there.

He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted. They all had enough to eat.

When they had finished Jesus said to his disciples 'Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Talk

Sit after the opening prayer

Offering of grain and bread

In the name of the farmers and farm workers of our community, I bring this symbol of wheat and barley, the first fruits of our harvest. We offer it to God and pray for His blessing on the gathering in of all the crops. In the name of the people of our community, I bring this loaf. We offer it to God as a symbol of the first ears of the ripe corn. We offer it to God for his blessing on our homes and our families, on the food we eat and the work we do and on the daily life of our village.

All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

Prayers

Thank you good Lord in summer time, for sending the rain and sunshine and for making the plants of the field to grow.

Thank you for the farmers who cut the grain for the factory workers who make the flour for the shopkeepers who sell our food.

Thank you Lord for all your gifts to us.

Father we pray for all who are in any kind of need or trouble, that Jesus the Bread of Life will inspire us to share all that we have and are, with those who need our love and help.

Lord help us to serve you in our community

Amen.

The Peace

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy and peace, patience, kindness and goodness.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Hymn I the Lord of sea and sky (HO&N 235)

During this hymn the collection is taken and the Bread and Wine are bread forward.

The Eucharist

The Lord be with you.

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.

Sit or kneel

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places,
give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son.

We thank you because you have set us
in the midst of your bounteous creation
and called us to be fellow-workers with you;
we thank you because you have ripened our
first-fruits with the rain of heaven,
and the warmth of the sun.

God, it is good to rest in the evening, and to rise in
the morning, to walk upon this good earth, to hear
your whisper in many places,
and to sing your praise with many friends:

We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.

Lord, like a generous friend you share the whole
world with us, and you fill our cup to overflowing
with the wine of gladness:

We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.

And we want to sing and pray,

in gratitude for every good thing in your creation!

We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.

For your presence with us, around us, beneath us,
within us, behind us, and in front of us: and joining
with the angels in heaven we say

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.

Great and wonderful Father,
we remember when Jesus had
supper with his friends
the night before he died,
he took the bread;
he thanked you, broke it, gave
it to his friends and said:
Take this and eat it - this is my
body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine;
he thanked you, gave it to his friends and said:
All of you drink from this cup,
because this is my blood -
the new promise of God's love.
Do this every time you drink it to remember me.
Together we remember that Jesus is always with us and say
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come in glory.

So loving Father,
remembering how dearly Jesus loves us,
we should love him too. Send your Holy Spirit,
gentle as a dove,
on us and on these gifts,
so that, with everyone who eats and drinks
this bread and wine,
the body and blood of Jesus,
we may be full of your life and goodness.
Help us all to feed on Christ and
live our lives for him.
All honour and glory belong to you, Father,
through Jesus, your Son,
with the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Silence.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray, as our heavenly Father has taught us

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

The priest says the invitation to communion

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith
with thanksgiving.

The priest and people receive communion.

words of distribution are used and the communicant replies Amen.

All are welcome to receive the bread and wine if they are a member of any church or to come forward to receive a blessing

Hymns during communion

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept. Prayers for the sick and departed.

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for making this
no ordinary meal. It has been one in which we have been fed and nourished with your life.
May we go from here, refreshed and eager, to share your life and love with others.
Amen

The Dismissal

Hymn Guide me O thou great redeemer (HO&N 188) sing verses 1 and 2

The Blessing

May the love of God which gives life to the world,
sustain you;

May the bread of life, Jesus Christ, feed you with
the food that endures to eternal life;

May the power of the Holy Spirit nourish and strengthen you in faith.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

The priest and people depart.

Taken from a service by All Saints Church, Glazebury