

Pastor's Letter

June 16, 2024—11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

Our farmers have just finished, or soon will finish, with the rush of activity that comes with spring planting. All that work is aimed, of course, toward the goal of harvest in the Fall. Jesus uses the imagery of Spring and Fall, planting and harvesting in many of his parables. He uses it to remind us that just as God nourishes the seed in the ground with His gifts of sun and rain, so he nourishes in us the seed of faith planted in our hearts at baptism with his word and sacraments. It's important for us to remember that our lives have a purpose beyond the temporary goals and aims of this present life, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil." as St. Paul says in our second reading. God's generous care for us is meant to produce the fruit of holiness and love that he will one day harvest and bring into his heavenly home.

Come, ye thankful people come,
Raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide
for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the earth is God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day
All offenses purge away;
Give his angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
To your final harvest home;
Gather all your people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, forever purified,
In your presence to abide:
Come, with all your angels come,
Raise the glorious harvest home.

Henry Alford

Blessings,
Fr. Scott