**Lammas Service**

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Lammas or ‘Loaf-mass’ (derived from the Anglo-Saxon Hlafmaesse)
is an English feast in origin, held on 1st August as a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest. Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest was presented before God within the mass of that day. While the ceremony ceased at the Reformation, reference to Lammas Day continued in the Prayer Book calendar, and the practice has been revived in some places in more recent years. The tradition of giving thanks for the first-fruits need not be limited to 1st August, and churches are at liberty to decide when to hold such a celebration.

**The Welcome and Gathering**

The earth is the Lord's

**And all that is upon it**

Created and creative things

**Fruit and Fruitfulness**

Springtime and Summer

**Seedtime and harvest**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**and put a new and right spirit in me**

**For the promise of harvest contained within a seed we thank you.
For the oak tree within an acorn, the bread within a grain
The apple within a pip, the mystery of nature
gift wrapped for us to sow, we thank you.**

**Words of life**

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12.24

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.’

**Help us, Father, to love one another, and to work together for that day**

**when the whole world is fed, suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. Amen.**

**Reading**

**Reflection**

**Statement of Belief**

**Creator God, from the moment your spirit hovered over the waters of this earth
we were part of a vision held lovingly within your heart.
From the moment you spoke and separated darkness from light
you created space where we might one day walk.
From the moment your joy spilled out into green and living things
your beauty was revealed for us to taste and see.
Creator God, for this world, beauty and majesty,
passion and artistry, a green and pleasant place,
we praise your mighty name.**

**Praise**

Let us praise God: for the rich soil of the countryside, and drills drawn straight across the field; for the green corn springing out of the earth, and the warm sweetness of the rain: **Let us** **praise God.**

For the power of tractors and for all the machines that ease our labour; and for the skill of those who gather the harvest: **Let us praise God.**

For all who work on the farm and in the field; for their hope and courage in days of difficulty and disappointment: **Let us praise God.**

For those who, often unnoticed and unsung, provide their fellow citizens with the means of life, for the salvation of town and country: **Let us praise God.**

For all who take the true craftsman’s pride in the work they do, and know the satisfaction that comes from a hard day’s work well done: **Let us praise God.**

For the bread given us as our daily food, and for that Bread of Life which we receive at the Lord’s table: **Let us praise God.**

 *Annie Heppenstall’s book of Uncommon Prayer FaithandWorship.com*

**The Prayers**

***concluding with The Lord’s Prayer***

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Prayer of Blessing**

God of rainfall and sunshine and the ripening grain,

God of fleeing hares and harvest mice, of pollinating bees and hedgerow flowers, and of labouring teams at work all day; bless the fields and bless the grain, bless this bread and all who eat it.

Let none we know go hungry today, and may all be welcome here at our table.

So break open our hearts with broken bread

and may the harvest to come bring gladness to all.

**We bless you, God of Seed and Harvest and we bless each other
That the beauty of this world and the love that created it
Might be expressed though our lives and be a blessing to others
Now and always. Amen.**

Do I not fill heaven and earth, says God?

**so may we search and find the sacredness of the earth.**

Do I not fill heaven and earth, says God?

**so help us to love God through loving the earth.**

Do I not fill heaven and earth, says God?

**So may we take no more than we need, and return what we can;**

**may we work for healing, not harm, for regeneration, for re-greening;**

**may we cherish the earth**

May God bless the sun that is above us, the earth that is below us

The creatures all around us and lead us into all peace

In the name of the Holy Three, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen

Tend the earth, care for God’s good creation,

and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sources:

Annie Heppenstall’s book of Uncommon Prayer

FaithandWorship.com