



# Sing To The Lord Of Harvest

Reflections on Psalm 67

By Interim Pastor Cathi Braasch

By the time this newsletter gets into the hands of God's people of Peace Lutheran Church, we'll likely be poised, ready and waiting for harvest to begin. Hymns of harvest sustain the soul, and we needn't wait until season's end to sing them.

Like the psalms that inspire so many of them, these favorite hymns remind the singer of God's gracious provision, harvest after harvest, season after season.

Take, for example, Psalm 67 – the inspiration for a bumper crop of hymns. More than 80 Christian hymns take their themes and words from this psalm. Ten of these hymns are particular to harvest and thanksgiving celebrations, taking their theme from Psalm 67:6:

*The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.*

From old favorites like “*We Gather Together To Ask The Lord's Blessing*” and “*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*” to hymns describing the “*amber waves of grain*” that grace American prairies, you'll find Psalm 67's themes -- divine grace, our gratitude and our confidence in the Lord – abundantly shaping harvest and thanksgiving hymns.

So, go ahead and sing! Right now, there in the cab of your combine or truck, there in the kitchen, there at the table you're setting in the field or back at home base, or even in a refreshing end-of-the day shower. Sing loud, clear and bold!

The opening line of a favorite harvest hymn provides the title for this month's devotion. I've heard “*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*” sung to about a half-dozen different tunes. Use your favorite tune, or simply rest in the beauty of the words.

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord of harvest,  
Sing songs of love and praise;  
With joyful hearts and voices  
Your alleluias raise.  
By Him the rolling seasons  
In fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest,  
A joyous song of love.

<sup>2</sup>By Him the clouds drop fatness,  
The deserts bloom and spring,  
The hills leap up in gladness,  
The valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with His fullness  
All things with large increase,  
He crowns the year with goodness,  
With plenty and with peace.

The gifts His goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest,  
The souls He died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before Him  
When at His feet you fall,  
And with your lives adore Him,  
Who gave His life for all.

<sup>4</sup>To God the gracious Father,  
Who made us “very good,”  
To Christ, who, when we wandered,  
Restored us with His blood,  
And to the Holy Spirit,  
Who doth upon us pour  
His blessed dew and sunshine,  
Be praise forevermore!

<sup>3</sup>Bring to His sacred altar

Chances are you have a favorite harvest hymn. Don't wait for Thanksgiving to sing it. Go ahead, sing now, and pray as you do! Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Cathi Braasch

Psalm 67

*A three-part prayer for harvest and all other seasons*

*A plea for grace...*

<sup>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*\*

<sup>2</sup>that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

***Gratitude for God's impartiality and provision for all peoples...***

<sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

***Confidence in God's provision in all circumstances...***

<sup>6</sup>The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

<sup>7</sup>May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

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\**Selah* is an instruction that appears in many psalms. This Hebrew word means “*Pause, and think deeply about this.*”