

September 30 to October 6

Berlin District

All eyes look to you, hoping, and you give them their food right on time (Psalm 145: 15 CEB)

Melodious chords and darker tones

Harvest Festival is a joyous occasion, which gives us good reason to thank God. In our wealthy country we are unbelievably privileged and, in many ways, we have a fully laden table. I am sure that a lot of those who read this text will have many reasons be grateful.

The Bible text from Psalm 145 comes to us from a very different world. We don't need to wait for the table to be laid, but rather we have it laid all the time: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year! But that isn't everything so far as our harvest thanksgiving is concerned. Much darker tones are mixed with our pleasant-sounding chords of gratitude. Our world is becoming more and more torn between rich and poor. The destruction of the environment, war and hate rage more than ever, or so it seems.

This results in countless millions worldwide being faced with an empty table. Sometimes I gain the impression that the overwhelming number of crises and problems we hear about leave us indifferent. We have just got used to bad news. Or, worse still, we want to drive those out of our land who, through desperation, come to us expecting just a few scraps from our table. Harvest Festival should shake us up and make us painfully aware of this. Then make us speak out our praise and thanks with the passionate prayer: Lord have pity on those who go without! Thy Kingdom come!

Gabriel Straka

Contact: district.berlin@emk.de

Translation: Chris Woodhead

I GIVE THANKS

- for our richly decked table, and for everything which we have in our lives
- for those people who are not satisfied that they have what they need while others go without: and then try to do something about it
- for "Brot für die Welt" (Bread for the World) and other such organizations, which bring relief and help to those in need

I PRAY TO GOD FOR GOOD EYESIGHT

- for all who hunger. Hunger for bread, for freedom, for justice and for love
- for those of us in the rich world: that we finally, and with credibility, share our wealth – instead of investing our energy in getting rid of those who seek asylum here
- that we fully comprehend that God wants to give the hungry their food right on time, but that to do this he needs us to play our part

Berlin District

In total there are 27 churches in the Berlin District and around 2,000 Methodists. These are in the federal states of Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, and are in some cases more than 100 km apart. They are part of a world in which, for most people, the demolition of Christian tradition took place more than two generations ago.

Contact:

Superintendent
Gabriel Straka
Dieffenbachstraße 39
10967 Berlin

Tel.: 030 81797234
E-Mail: distrikt.berlin@emk.de