A NOTE TO PARENTS

We plow the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land;
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand ...

*

A man bought a farm that had been abandoned for some years. He worked hard, and soon the place was handsome and productive. One day the preacher came to see him. "Good morning, Caleb!" he said. "My, what a fine job you and the Lord have done with this place."

"Yessir," said Caleb, "and you shoulda seen what kind of a mess the Lord was making of it when He was trying to do it all by Himself."

*

The hymn and the joke are, of course, both true. God has chosen to place us in a world in which, as we know by faith, nothing that we do will prosper without God's grace to sustain it. But we also know by experience that God has chosen to share with his creatures the work of caring for his creation and providing for our needs. Nature is not entirely benevolent; we no longer live in the Garden of Eden. Without the Native Americans to show them how to plant corn, the Pilgrims would have starved. Without the work of countless people, most of whom we will never know, our family could not be sitting down today, safe and happy, to eat roast turkey. And if some day our great-grandchildren sit down to a turkey dinner, it will be because we and many others, here and now, chose to work with God and each other to sustain God's creation rather than destroy it. God will not do it alone.

Giving thanks, therefore, turns out to be a complex thing. At the holiday table, we can give thanks to God, and also to each other, for the many times we have made loving choices that bend us to God's will and bring the Kingdom a little closer. And thank God for the awesome love that made this world, and us in it, free to share in God's work ... and for the everlasting arms, outstretched on the Cross, that are extended to catch us when we fail.

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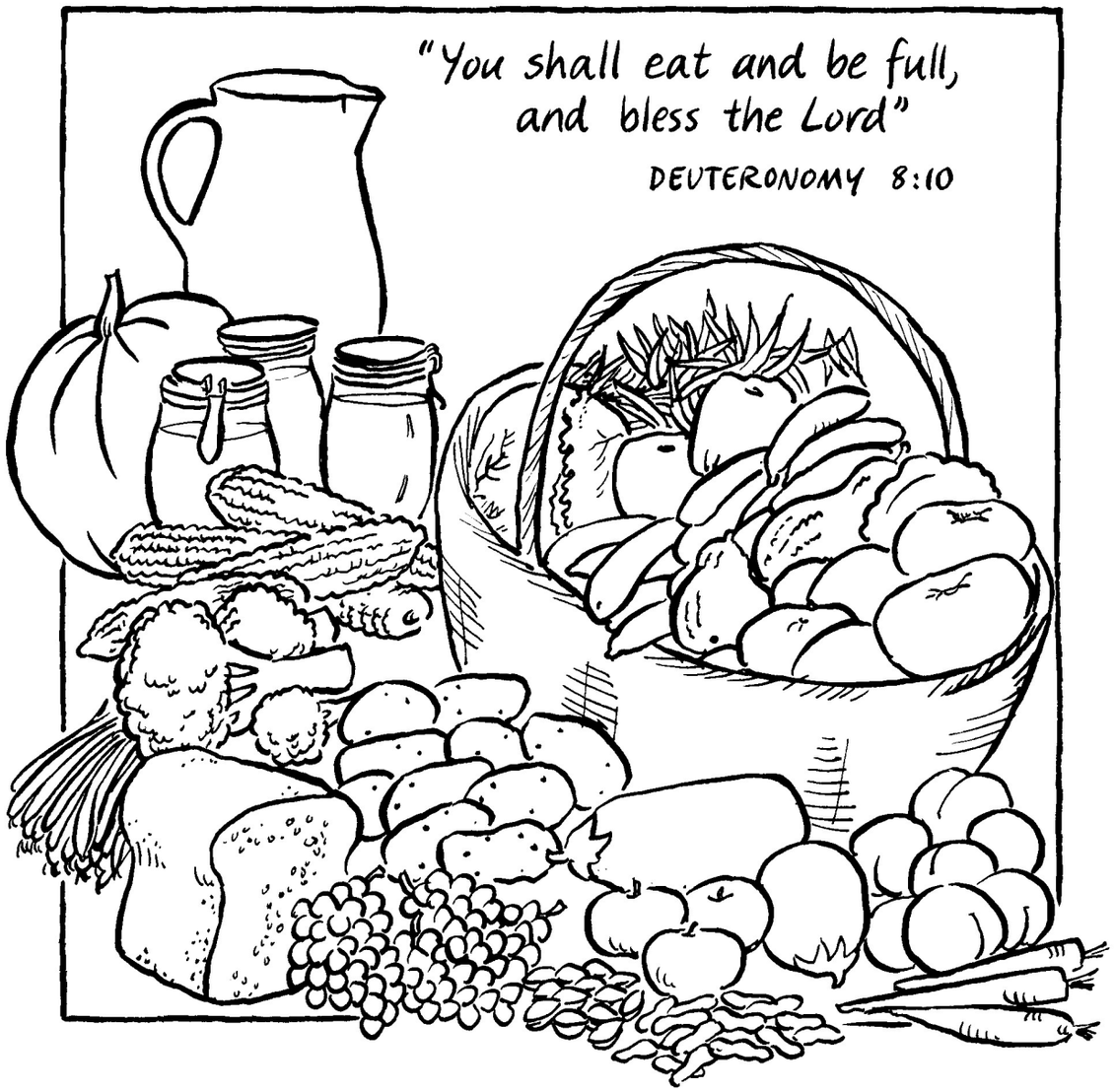
Year A

THANKSGIVING



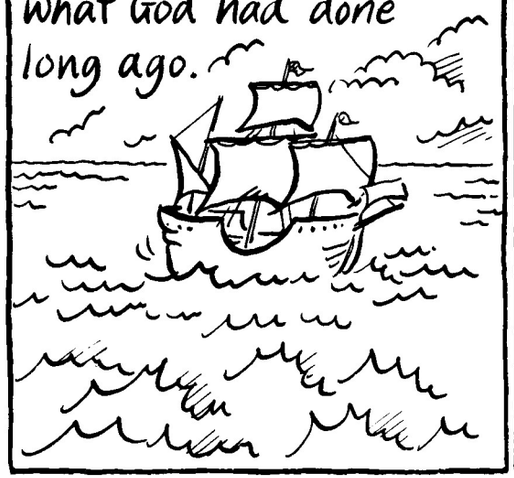
Long, long ago, God led his people out of slavery in Egypt...



...into a good land, "flowing with milk and honey."



When the Pilgrims came to America, they remembered what God had done long ago.

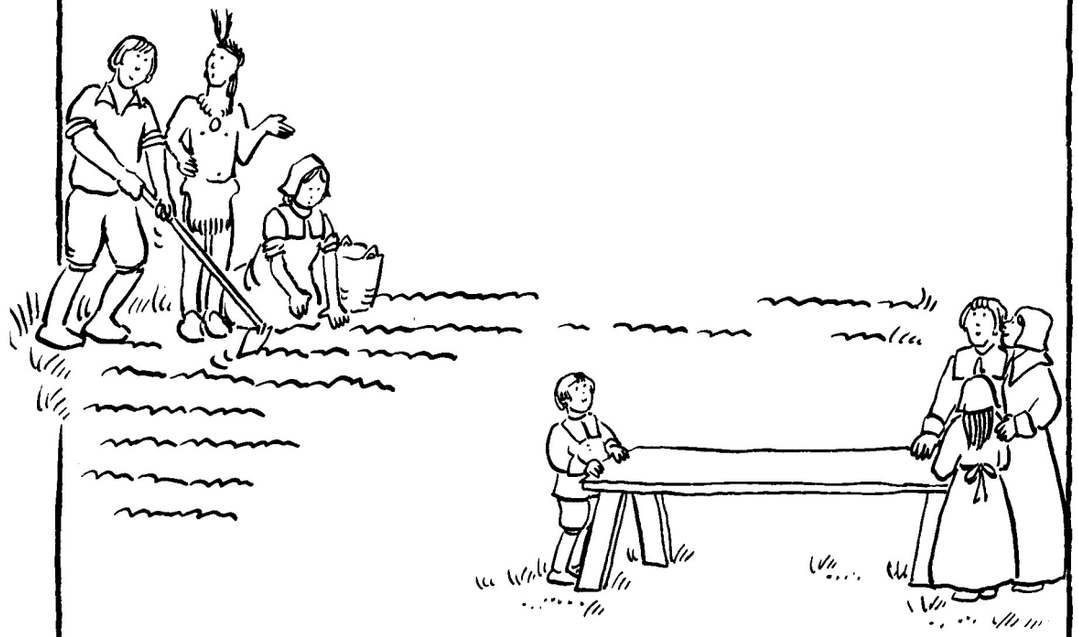


They gave thanks to God for bringing them to this good land!



A PILGRIM is someone who goes on a long journey, to keep a promise to God. The "Pilgrims" came to America to start churches in the way they thought was right.

Starting in a new land was hard and scary. They were hungry and cold. Some of them died. When the Wampanoag people helped them raise their first crops, the Pilgrims thanked God for taking care of them!



Send sun and rain, and make the corn grow in this Pilgrim family's field. Then put it on their table!