

A Litany of Blessing for: Soil, Seed, Water, Equipment and Livestock

A: Brothers and sisters in Christ; Today we gather with thankfulness we seek God's blessing for the wonders of creation. We especially seek God's blessing at this time of planting.

(below scripture reading or other appropriate may be read)

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

P: Let all who are present here yield high praise to our Creator that God may crown the Earth with goodness! God gives every good and perfect gift: the rich soil, the smell of fresh-turned earth, the keenness of the winters frost, the rumble of the machine, the gleam of a cutting blade; the blistered hand, the sweat of the brow, the skill of those who plow; the beauty of a clean-cut furrow, the sweep of a well-plowed field; all reveal the mind of God the Creator.

A: Blessed be God in all good gifts, and all good works.

People: We dedicate our equipment, our seed, our livestock, our time, and ourselves to the glory of God

(use items below as appropriate)

Blessing of the Soil

(The Pastor scoops into the soil and pours it back.)

A: God you have created and given us this soil. The soil serves as the medium for the seed to grow, it cleans water, it regulates climate, it provides warmth, nourishment, and support so that new life may emerge.

P: (+) Bless this soil that it may feed and nourish the seed. Bless those who work this soil and harvest they produce. Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Blessing of the Seed

(Pastor scoops up the seed and places some in the soil)

A: Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, you give seed to the sower and bread for food.

P: (+) Bless, nourish, and protect, the seed which people have sown and will sow in hope, so that by your good providence and bountiful giving, it may bring forth fruit in due season and be gathered with thanksgiving to satisfy the needs of your people. Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Blessing of the Water

(The Pastor lifts the water and pours it over the soil)

A: God, this water is your creation. Water gives sustenance and nourishment to the soil and the seed.

P: (+) Bless the soil and the seed with gentle rain. Bless this water. Let it come as rain at the right time, in the proper amount so that the seed may flourish and grow. Send us favorable weather so that the harvest will be bountiful. Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Blessing of Farm Equipment

(Pastor invokes and extending God's blessing)

A: Gracious Lord, be with us now as we set apart farm equipment and implements to your glory and praise.

P: (+) Grant us diligence in maintenance, safety and caution in use, and patience during breakdowns and repair. Give us the faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom. Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Blessing of Livestock

(Pastor invokes and extending God's blessing)

A: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You make the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.

P: (+) We pray for your blessing upon this year's livestock. May those who raise them provide adequate food, water and shelter. May the meat that's produced provide sustenance to all who are in need.

Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

A: We offer these petitions in the name of and for the sake of the good shepherd, Jesus Christ our risen and ascended Lord.

People: Amen (+).

Prayers the Farming Community

For Agriculture

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Rain

O God, heavenly Father, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all those who seek thy kingdom and its righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life: Send us, we ask you, in this time of need, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to your honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Father, who opens thy hand and fills all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou gives, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord.