

Garden Blessing - New Life



Leader: Today we will ask God's blessing on the seeds (the seedlings) before us, knowing that the plants they will produce will bring beauty to the earth and food to our tables.

Let us first listen to God's Word about seeds and growing.

A reading from Matthew:

And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" - Matthew 13:3-9

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Leader: God provides the seeds, and sends the rain and the sun to help them grow. Let us turn to God in prayer.

For the Church.

May we continue to plant the seeds of faith and justice in the world today. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the world.

May the seed of peace take root in every nation, and may true peace grow on the face of the earth. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those in need.

May the seeds of our money, time, and love help those who are hungry, those in need of shelter and clothing, and all in need of special care. We pray today especially for (_____prayer list_____)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the farmers.

May the seeds they plant this spring grow and produce much food. We pray to the Lord. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, creator God, we place these prayers, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of God's peace.

Prayer of Blessing

Leader: *Invite people to hold or touch seeds, seedlings, or a handful of soil* as you offer the following prayer.

God our Creator,

you have given us many gifts of creation and you have asked us to care for them all.

We ask your blessing as we go forth to plant - on these seeds, seedlings, and soil.

I invite you to say a silent prayer asking God to bless the seeds, seedlings, and soil. You might hold them close to your heart.

As we care for them, help us remember to also care for those in need

so that your love and goodness may grow in our hearts and in the hearts of all we meet.

I invite you to say a silent prayer asking God to bless our neighbors who will eat the food we grow here, holding them close to your hearts as well.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made.

Amen.

Song

Conclude by singing a refrain or song celebrating God's gifts of creation.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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Sending

Go in peace, share the joy of God's good news for this good earth!

Thanks be to God.

Blessing of The Land (at Planting or Harvest)

God of the Universe,
You made the heavens and the earth,
So we do not call our home merely "planet earth."
We call it your Creation, a Divine Mystery,
a Gift from Your Most Blessed Hand.

The world itself is your miracle.
Bread and vegetables from earth are thus also from heaven.
Help us to see in our daily bread your presence.
Upon our garden
May your stars rain down their blessed dust.
May you send rain and sunshine upon our garden and us.
Grant us the humility to touch the humus,
That we might become more human.
That we might mend our rift from your Creation,
That we might then know the sacredness of the gift of life—
That we might truly experience life from the hand of God.
For you planted humanity in a garden,
and began our resurrection in a garden.
Our blessed memory and hope lie in a garden.
Thanks be to God,
Who made the world teeming with variety,
Of things on the earth, above, the earth, and under the earth.
Thanks be to God,
For the many kinds of plants, trees, and fruits,
We celebrate.
For the centipedes, ants, and worms,
For the mice, marmots, and bats,
For the cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers
We rejoice,
That we find ourselves eclipsed by the magnitude
Of generosity and mystery.
Thanks be to God.

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