



Sustaining Life on the Land

Reflections on Rural Life

PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE LAND, FOR THE FRUITS OF THE FIELD, FOR ALL WHO LABOR TO FEED THE HUNGRY

Leader: O God, come to be with us as we take a break from our labors.

All: Lord, make haste to help us in our working and our resting/in our praying and playing.

Antiphon:

Leader: And other seeds fell upon good ground and yielded fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold. *Matthew 13:8 - (all Scripture taken from the New American Bible translation.)*

All: And other seeds fell... (repeat antiphon)

Psalm 65: 10-14

Side 1: You have visited the land and watered it/greatly have You enriched it.

Side 2: God's watercourses are filled/You have prepared the grain.

Side 1: Thus have You prepared the land/drenching its furrows/breaking up its clods,

Side 2: Softening it with showers/blessing its yield.

Side 1: You have crowned the year with your bounty/and Your paths overflow with a rich harvest;

Side 2: The untilled meadows overflow with it/and rejoicing clothes the hills.

Side 1: The fields are garmented with flocks/and the valleys blanketed with grain. They shout and sing for joy.

Side 2: Glory be to the Father/and to the Son/and to the Holy Spirit,

Side 1: As it was in the beginning/is now and ever shall be/world without end. Amen.

All: And other seeds fell upon good ground, and yielded fruit; some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold.

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Reading from James 5:7-8

Leader: Be patient, therefore, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil. The farmer looks forward to it patiently while the soil received the winter and the spring rains. You too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Prayers

Leader: Lord of Creation, You who planted Your own garden called Eden.

All: Come bless the land where our plants grow.

Leader: O Divine Wisdom, You who compacted abundant life within a tiny seed.

All: Sprinkle the land with rain, kiss the green shoots with sun, caress the fruits with robust life.

Leader: O Divine Gardener, You who planted the Tree of Knowledge and the Tree of Life.

All: Bless our orchards and forests, bless our fields and vineyards, bless our land with a good harvest, and give the gatherers of the harvest a good heart.

Leader: O Bountiful Creator, You who provide enough for everyone.

All: Guide us as we work out the distribution of this year's bounty.

Leader: Let us pray: Almighty Life-giver, pour down Your blessing upon Your people and upon all the fruits of the earth. After the harvest guide us to distribute all that was collected so that all the hungry may eat and Your Name will be glorified. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ and the Life-giving Holy Spirit, who live and reign forever.

All: Amen

Litany of Saints

Leader: We call upon the saints to be models for our life on earth and to accompany us to where we will know Eternal peace and Endless joy.

Holy Mary, homemaker of Nazareth, **All: pray for us.**

St. Joseph (*carpenter, patron of workers*), **pray for us.**

St. Anne (*housewife and homemaker*), **pray for us.**

St. Isidore (*farmer*), **pray for us.**

St. Francis of Assisi (*patron of animals*), **pray for us.**

St. Martha (*cook*), **pray for us.**

St. Elizabeth of Hungary (*baker*), **pray for us.**

St. Brigid (*dairy worker*), **pray for us.**

St. Sebastian (*gardener*), **pray for us.**

St. James (*blacksmith and veterinarian*), **pray for us.**

St. Andrew (*fisherman*), **pray for us.**

St. Luke (*butcher*), **pray for us.**

St. Barbara (*protection against storms*), **pray for us.**

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (*florist*), **pray for us.**

St. Albert the Great (*scientist*), **pray for us.**

St. Thomas Aquinas (*patron of learners*), **pray for us.**

St. Matthew (*banker, tax collector*), **pray for us.**

St. Michael (*grocer*), **pray for us.**

St. Lawrence (*protector from fires*), **pray for us.**

St. Francis Xavier (*winemaker*), **pray for us.**

St. Raphael (*shepherd*), **pray for us.**

St. Zita (*domestic servant*), **pray for us.**

Leader: Let us pray: O God, who taught Adam the simple art of tilling the soil and who through Jesus Christ, the True Vine revealed Yourself as the husbandman of our souls, grant us a horror of sin and a love of prayer so that working the soil in the sweat of our brow we may come eventually to enjoy eternal happiness in Heaven. We make this prayer in honor of the Blessed Trinity, now and forever.

All: Amen

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen