

Rite of Blessing of the Seed

This rite has been prepared by Pastor Don Hansen of Trinity Lutheran Church, Estevan, Saskatchewan and is available for public use.

Pastor:

Today we seek God's blessing on these seeds and the crops they will produce. Christ reminds that, unless the seed is planted in the earth and dies, it will not yield fruit. As these seeds grow and are cared for, may they be signs of the new life that comes from God.

Scripture Readings (any number of the following may be used):

Genesis 1:27-31 "Creation"

Isaiah 55:10-13 "God gives seed to the one who sows."

1 Corinthians 15:35-39 "The seed you sow does not germinate unless it dies."

2 Corinthians 9:6-10 "God will increase the harvest."

Matthew 13:31-32 "Parable of the mustard seed."

Mark 4:26-29 "The seed and the kingdom of God."

Luke 12:16-21 "Be rich in what matters to God."

John 12:23-25 "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies....."

Then one of the following Psalms may be used:

Psalm 126

Psalm 65: 1-2, 9-10, 11-12, 13

Prayer of Blessing:

A small, token amount of seed can be held in a glass container during the blessing.

Pastor:

Lord of the harvest, You placed the gifts of creation in our hands and called us to till the earth and make it fruitful.

We ask your blessing as we prepare to place these seeds (seedlings) in the earth. May the care we show these seeds (seedlings) remind us of your tender love for your people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

or

Eternal Father, maker of heaven and earth, we bless you and give you glory.

Bless (+) this seed, and make it fruitful. Look upon our work this season, and grant that the seeds we plant will produce plentiful crops, providing food and work for many.

In your love, give us favourable weather throughout this growing season. Make us truly grateful for all our gifts and willing to share our goods and talents with others, especially those without adequate food.

All praise and glory are yours, almighty Father through you Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Note: We do not ask for bumper crops, we do not ask for wealth. We go to God so that we do not forget the gifts and our place in creation, not as exploiters of the earth, but as caretakers.