

BLESSING OF FIELDS AND GARDENS

Through this rite the faithful express their grateful recognition of the blessings of God, who created the universe out of his inexpressible love and entrusted its care to human labor as the way of providing for common human needs.

All make the sign of the cross.

The leader begins:

Let us together praise the Lord, from whom we have rain from the heavens and abundance from the earth. Blessed be God now and forever.

R/. Amen

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing.

Let us bless God, whose might has created the earth and whose providence has enriched it. God has given us the earth to cultivate, so that we may gather its fruits to sustain life.

But as we thank God for his bounteousness, let us learn also, as the Gospel teaches, to seek first his Kingship over us, his way of holiness. Then all our needs will be given us besides.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture:

Listen to the words of the Book of Genesis:

1:1, 11-12, 29-31a

Leader: In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, . . . God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was.

God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it to be very good. Evening came, and morning followed - the sixth day.

The intercessions are then said:

Leader: The Lord and Father of us all, looking with benign providence on his children, gives them nourishment and growth by blessing the earth with the fruitfulness that sustains human life. As children of this heavenly Father, let us pray to him saying:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: You have told us that Christ is the vine and we are the branches; grant that by living in your Son we may produce much good fruit. For this we pray:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: You bless the earth and abundance flows in its pastures; grant that by your blessing our fields may yield the food we need. For this we pray:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: You make the wheat grow that provides our daily bread and the gift of the Eucharist; give us a crops made rich by abundant rain and fertile soil. For this we pray:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer

The leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined.

O God,
from the very beginning of time you commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation and fruit of every kind.
You provide the sower with seed and give bread to eat.
Grant, we pray, that this land, enriched by your bounty and cultivated by human hands, may be fertile with abundant crops.
Then your people, enriched by the gifts of your goodness, will praise you unceasingly now and for ages unending.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May God, the source of every good, bless us and give success to our work, that we may receive the joy of his gifts and praise his name now and forever.

R/. Amen.

The blessing concludes with a suitable song.