

Blessing of the Crops

For the Agricultural Community of Brooks County
and the surrounding area
March 13, 2012

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Reading from Genesis (Genesis 1: 11-12, 27-31):

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 6:25-33):

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our life's vocation from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:
Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;
that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve
you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all
things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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.*

O God, heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ
have promised to all those who seek your kingdom and its
righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life: Send
us 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.*

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the
kingdom of God in all creation: Have mercy upon
all of us who live and work in this community and grant that
all the people of our nation may give thanks to you for food and
drink and all other bodily necessities of life, respect those who labor to
produce them, and honor the land and the water from which
these good things come. All this we ask in your Holy Name. *Amen.*

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth,
you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom
and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that we may
be faithful stewards of your good gifts; and that generations yet
to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The People are invited to offer their prayers and petitions.

Officiant: Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of heaven and earth and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all the fields and forests of our region and upon all of the seeds, plants and animals that you have so graciously given to us. Grant that in all you have given us to do, our works may find favor in your sight and that all that we do may be to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

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