

BLESSING FOR OUR FARMS, OUR FARM FAMILIES, OUR RURAL CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY

GATHERING SONG

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass; He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring! God reigns, let the earth be glad!

BLESSING

The Gift of Seed: God gives us the seed, and entrusts it to our care.

Seeds are about the past, the present, and the future. Seed is the fruit of a past harvest; they are ready to be planted in the present; in the future, they will bear fruit. May the miracle of life within the seed break forth and yield a bountiful harvest. Lord God, bless the seed, and all who plant it.

The Gift of Soil: God created and entrusted the soil to our care.

The soil is a home for the seed, nourishing and sustaining it. Soil sustains all of life, and is a precious resource. Bless the soil, O God, that it may support Your great gift of life. Bless all who work the soil, and care for it.

The Gift of Water: God blesses us with water, and entrusts it to our care.

Water gives sustenance and nourishment to the soil, the seed, and all life, with water in rain, rivers, ponds, lakes, and seas. Creator God, bless the water. Let it come as rain at the right time and the needed amount, so that the seed may flourish and grow, life will be sustained, and the harvest be bountiful.

The Gift of Livestock: God gives us livestock, and entrusts them to our care.

Livestock provide us with so much that we need and enjoy. God who made all living creatures, bless our livestock with good health, good living conditions, and careful management. May we care for the animals in our lives with humility and gratitude.

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The Gift of Machinery: **God gives us tools and machines, and entrusts them to our wisdom.**

Tools and machines help us in our work. Tools are the result of the creativity and vision in the human mind and spirit. Tools can be used for great good in our work. Lord Jesus, who knew the feel of tools in His hands, bless the tractors and tools that we use on our farms. May we use them well, may we use them safely, and may all who work with tools and machines be kept safe in the seasons of planting and harvest.

**Creator God, majestic and mysterious,
open our eyes to see what You have done and are doing,
our minds to understand our dependency upon You for all life;
and our gratitude for those who farm the land and care for land, plants, trees and livestock.
Lord, we are thankful for all our blessings in our rural community, our farms and gardens, and
the place and people with whom we live. May we bless this life with bold faith, courageous
living, and work with You to restore hope, remembering that the earth and everything in it –
including us – belongs to You. In Jesus name, we pray, AMEN!**

CLOSING SONG

**Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow
gonna mulch it deep and low, gonna make it fertile ground**

***Inch by inch, row by row, God bless these seeds I sow;
Please keep them safe below 'Till the rain comes tumbling down.***

**Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones We are made of dreams and bones;
Found a place to call my own, A gift from God above. *Inch by inch, row by row...***

**Grain for grain, sun and rain, this is God's creation chain,
with my body and my brain sing the music of the land. *Inch by inch, row by row...***

**Plant your rows straight and long, season them with prayer and song;
The Lord above will make you strong, when you give earth loving care. *Inch by inch...***

BLESSING

**The LORD will display His glory, the splendor of our God.
With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands,
and encourage those who have weak knees.**

**Say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming!
He is coming to save and to restore! Be of good hope!**

Based on Isaiah 35