

RURAL LIFE SUNDAY 2020 BLESSING

The Gift of Seed:

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. **God gives us the seed, and entrusts it to our care.**

The Gift of Soil:

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. **God created the earth, and entrusts the soil to our care.**

The Gift of Water:

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. **God blesses us with water, and entrusts it to our care.**

The Gift of Livestock:

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. **God gives us livestock, and entrusts them to our care.**

The Gift of Food:

God provides us with food to eat; food that looks and tastes so good; food that nourishes our bodies and souls. How blessed we are! May we receive food with gratitude, share generously, and treat food respectfully. **God blesses us with food to eat, and entrusts it to our care**

The Gift of Machinery:

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. **God gives us tools and machines, and entrusts them to our wisdom.**

The Gift of Rural Community

God created us to serve Him and one another, and to work with Him in caring for creation. God gives us the gift of living in rural communities and small towns, and those who He especially calls to farm. With thankful hearts, we dedicate our farm families to Your purpose and ask that You grant protection, safety, fulfillment and deep joy to them as they are faithful to Your calling upon their lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**