Plough Sunday

Blessing of the Plough, Soil, & Seed

Welcome and Gathering

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**
We come as representatives of our community
To offer our work to the service of God,
let us sense our welcome in the name
of the one who made us all, people, animals and all the earth.

Jesus, who walked
with farmers and fishers and sat in village kitchens, **be with us now.**

You kindled faith and hope,
came close to shed your light as darkness fell.
So, today as we gather here, we say:
Lord Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers
and sat in village kitchens, be with us now.

Hymn

The Collect

Act of Penitence

The earth is the Lord's: **And all that is within it.**
The compass of the world: **And they that dwell upon it.**
The Lord looked upon the earth: **And filled it with his blessings.**
While the earth remains, seed time and harvest:
night and day, summer and winter, shall not cease.
All who plough: **should plough in hope.**
Our help is in the name of the Lord:
`````````````````` **who has made heaven and earth.**

**Almighty God, with you we can do everything,**
**without you we can do nothing:**
**open our eyes that we may see you:**
**open our lips that we may praise you:**
**open our hearts that we may know you:**
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
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Voice

No one who puts his hand to the plough, and looks back,
Is ready to live in God's Kingdom.

When we are ungrateful for the rain, the sun,
the snow, and the frost, each in their season,
forgetting they are God's gifts to us: **Lord have mercy.**

Voice

When we are blind to the mystery of germination, forgetting that it is God's handiwork. When we are careless with the farm animals, forgetting that they are God's creatures. **Lord have mercy.**

Voice

When we are unkind to other people, forgetting they we are all God's children. When we scrimp in our work, forgetting that we are God's workers. When we mistreat the land, forgetting that it is the splendour of God: **Lord have mercy.**

May God the Creator forgive our misusing of his creative work;
May God the Son take up into his cross the sufferings of our land,
our animals, our families and ourselves.
May God the Holy Spirit give us the strength and power to overcome our troubles, weaknesses and temptations.
May God the Holy Trinity forgive us all our sins. **Amen.**

Readings
Address
Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn
Blessing of the Plough

Voice for a Farmer:

The Plough is the sign of all our labour in the countryside: the Plough is the foundation of the farmer's work. Before the soil can be broken, the seed sown, the green corn grow, the grain be reaped, the bread baked, the people be fed, we must plough the field.

Voice for a Ploughman:

So at the beginning of another year, we bring this plough to our Parish Church, that you may give your blessing to it and to us, and to all the work and workers on the farms of our parish.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: for in your abundant care you have given us fertile land, rich soil, the seasons in their courses.
You provide seed for sowing, water, light and warmth to bring forth the miracle of growth; You give us skill to work the land, to prepare and nourish it, that it may be fruitful.

By your blessing, let this plough be a sign of all that you promise to us.
Prosper the work of our hands,
and provide abundant crops for your people to share.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God speed the plough. **God speed the plough.**

/The Blessing of Seed &Soil

Voice for a Farmer:

We bring you this soil: rich soil and fertile, poor soil and stony, wet soil and water-logged; and the seed we will sow in hopes of rich harvest. Soil and seed, for your blessing we bring

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
in your goodness you have given us good soil and seed to sow.
In soil and seed may we perceive the promise of life,
the wonders of your creative love.

By your blessing, let this seed be for us a sign of your creative power, that we may see the miracle of growth, and in due course reap a rich harvest.
As this seed must die to give life, reveal to us
the saving power of your Son, who died that we might live,

and plant in us the good seed of your word.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

By itself the earth produces:
first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain shall appear.

Hymn

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel for prayer.

Let us ask the God of creation to send a blessing upon us.
Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.
Let the earth be fruitful and its resources be hallowed.
We ask in faith:
we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord.
Prosper the work of our hands;
may all find dignity and just reward in their work;
free the exploited and oppressed.
We ask in faith:
we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord.
Guide us into a sustainable future,
and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.
We ask in faith:
we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord.
Teach us to cherish the water of the earth,
and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.
We ask in faith:
we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon aid agencies send a blessing, O Lord.
Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry;
where war brings want, and children go hungry;
where the poor cry out for bread and for justice,
give hands to care and heal, and compel us to be generous.
We ask in faith:

All **We ask you to hear us, good Lord,**
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise

Father in heaven, it is right that we should give you thanks and glory:
for you are the one God, living and true.
You are God of the spouting seed and the harvest, the gardener supreme.
You place us close to your centre of that created order.
You feed us, equip us and call us
to fruitfulness of lives in service to you, and others.
In Jesus Christ you give us the pattern to be stewards of this world,
and so with each creature under heaven, we praise your glory as we say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ,
Who, in the night that he was betrayed, took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you, and for many, to forgive sin.
Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Father, because you love us, you invite us to come to your table.
Fill us with the joy of the Holy Spirit
as we receive the body and blood of your Son.
Bless the land and all who work upon it,

remember everyone who is suffering from pain or sorrow.
Remember Christians everywhere and all other people in the world .
And so by the word of our Lord, maker of all under heaven;
through the Spirit by whose inspiration life begun.
By the love of our Lord Jesus born God's Son.
Through His grace by which humanity was and is saved.
We honour our creator, redeemer and sustainer,
Praising Father Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

The Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us. ***(Repeat x2)***
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

The Giving of Communion

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon us his children,
and as we are gifted through the sacrament
may we use his gifts to further the growth of God's glory
and the welfare of all peoples

Hymn

Final Blessing

Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers
and sat in village kitchens
Walk with us now, as comes time to depart.
Stay with us, Lord in work and rest, in mind, in soul, in heart.

May God the Creator bless your labour. **Amen.**
May God the Son walk with you day by day. **Amen**
May God the Holy Spirit inspire
and strengthen you as you work with him **Amen**

May God's Blessing surround us each day
As we trust Him and walk in His way
May His presence within guard and keep us from sin
Let us go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

and blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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