



# Institute for Rural & Small Town Ministries

*An Institute of Concordia Nebraska*

## **Opening Versicles**

L Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,  
C have mercy and hear us.

## **Lord's Prayer**

C 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  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **Apostles' Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life + everlasting. Amen.



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## **The Promise of Planting**

### **Genesis 1:11-12**

<sup>11</sup>And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so.

<sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

## **A Psalm of Thanksgiving**

### **Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup>Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;

<sup>8</sup>they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever!

## **Planting and the Word of the Lord**

### **1 Corinthians 3:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.



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### **Trusting the Lord for Future Growth**

<sup>26</sup>And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

### **Devotional Thoughts on Preparing the Soil**

Plowing and sowing.—On the plains of Israel, little or no preparation for plowing was needed, but in the hilly regions, the larger stones, which the tilling of the previous season had loosened and which the winter's rains had washed bare, must be picked out and perhaps piled into heaps on some ledge, or made into the paths, which over time become elevated above the fields which they traverse. If grain is to be planted, the seed would be scattered broadcast by the sower. If the land has not been used for some time the ground is first plowed, and when the seed has been scattered is plowed again. The sower may keep his supply of seed in a pocket made by pulling up his outer garment through his girdle to a sufficient extent for it to sag down outside his girdle in the form of a loose pouch. He may, on the other hand, carry it in a jar or basket as the sowers are pictured as doing on the Egyptian monuments. As soon as the seed is scattered it is plowed in before the ever-present crows and ravens can gather it up. The path of the plow in the fields of the hilly regions is a tortuous one because of the boulders jutting out here and there (Mt 13:3 ff) or because of the ledges which frequently lie hidden just beneath the surface (the rocky places of Christ's parable). When the plowman respects the footpaths which the owner has allowed to be trodden across his fields or which mark the boundaries between the lands of different owners, and leaves them unplowed, then the seed which has fallen on these portions becomes the food of the birds. Corners of the field where the plow cannot reach are hoed by hand.

Patch, J. A. (1915). Agriculture. In J. Orr, J. L. Nuelsen, E. Y. Mullins, & M. O. Evans (Eds.), *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia* (Vols. 1–5, p. 76). The Howard-Severance Company. (Adapted)



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1. How is the Lord helping in this season?
2. What preparations still remain in this season?
3. What is most important for today?
4. What should we ask of the Lord today and for this season?
5. How will we love the Lord by loving (serving) our neighbor today, or in this season?
6. Is there a neighbor who because of some challenge is falling behind in their work? After praying for them, is there help we can offer or organize?

## **Luther's Morning Prayer**

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**L** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You bless the earth to make it fruitful, bringing forth in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives. Prosper the work of farmers and all those who labor to bring food to our table. Grant them seasonable weather that they may gather in the fruits of the earth in abundance and proclaim Your goodness with thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **Luther's Evening Prayer**

**C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. Amen.**

## **Benedicamus**

**LSB 284**

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Benediction (Pauline)**

**P** The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C Amen.**

## **Acknowledgments**

Responsive Prayer 1 from Lutheran Service Book

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