

# Service For Plough Sunday



**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God speed the plough:

the plough and the ploughman, the farm and  
the farmer, machine, and beast, and man.

God speed the plough:

the beam and the turner,  
the slade and the lonside,  
the share and the coulthers

God speed the plough:

in fair weather and foul,  
in success and disappointment,  
in rain and wind, or in frost and sunshine.

God speed the plough.

**People: God speed the plough.**

**BLESSING OF THE SOILS AND SEED**

*(Soil and seed is brought to the front of the church)*

**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.

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord of creation,  
soil and seed are the gift of your hand.

Signs of your generous love  
and the miracle of new life and growth.

Bless all soil and all seed, the potential they hold  
that all may have plenty and be filled.

God bless the soil and the seed.

**God bless our soil and our seed.**

HYMN

INTERCESSIONS AND LORDS PRAYER

FINAL HYMN

CLOSING RESPONSES

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.**

BLESSING

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.**

**THE GATHERING**

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

You too were tired  
when day was done;  
you met your friends at evening time.

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

As we gather here  
we remember  
that as night drew on  
you too gave thanks  
you too would bless  
at close of day.

**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 *(during which tools and plough brought forward)*

## OUR DEPENDENCE ON GOD

**Almighty God, with whom we can do everything,  
without whom 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.**

Priest: The earth is the Lord's:

**People: And all that therein is.**

Priest: The compass of the world:

**People: And they that dwell therein.**

Priest: The Lord looked upon the earth:

**People: And filled it with his blessings.**

Priest: While the earth remains,  
seed time and harvest:

**People: And summer and winter, and day  
and night, shall not cease.**

Priest: He that ploughs:

**People: Should plough in hope.**

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord:

**People: Who has made heaven and earth.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Farmer: No one who puts his hand to the  
plough, and looks back,

**People: Is fit for the Kingdom of God.**

Farmer: When we are ungrateful for the rain,  
and the sun, the snow and the frost, in  
their season,

**People: And forget they are God's gifts to us:**

Farmer: When we are blind to the mystery of  
germination,

**People: And forget it is God's handiwork:**

Farmer: When we are careless with the beasts,

**People: And forget they are God's creatures:**

Farmer: When we are unkind to other people,

**People: And forget they are God's children:**

Farmer: When we scamp our work,

**People: And forget we are God's workers:**

Farmer: When we ill-treat the land,

**People: And forget it is the splendour of God:  
O God, forgive us.**

**Priest:** May the almighty and all-loving Father  
make you clean from the wrong you have done in  
the past: May our merciful Lord and Saviour Jesus  
Christ make you strong to sin no more in the  
future: May the gracious and life-giving Holy Spirit  
make you faithful to God again to-day: To whom  
be the glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## HYMN

## THANKSGIVING (*all stand*)

Farmer: From God comes every good and  
perfect gift.

**People: From God comes every good and  
perfect gift.**

Farmer: The rich soil, the smell of the fresh  
- turned earth:

**People: Come from God.**

Farmer: The keenness of a winter's frost,  
men's breath, and horses, steaming :

**People: Come from God.**

Farmer: The hum of the tractor, the gleam of  
a cutting edge:

**People: Come from God.**

Farmer: The wheeling of the birds, people's  
shouts and laughter;

**People: Come from God.**

Farmer: The seamed hand, the knotted arm,  
the sweat of the brow, the skill of the  
ploughman:

**People: Come from God.**

Farmer: The beauty of a clean-cut furrow, the  
sweep of a well-ploughed field:

**People: Come from God.**

Farmer: Blessed be God in all his gifts:

**People: And holy in all his works.**

## BIBLE READING

## TALK

## HYMN

## BLESSING OF THE PLOUGH (*all stand and farm workers gather around the plough*)

**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, or the seed sown,  
or the green corn grow, or the grain be reaped,  
or the bread baked, or the people be fed, we  
must plough the field.

**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.