

Opening prayer: Almighty God, maker of heaven
and earth; yours is a creation of beauty
and order. Night yields to day; seed time
leads to harvest. In your divine providence,
grant growth from that which you
plant. Bring to harvest and fruition
the seeds of your Kingdom. Teach us
your lessons of faithful stewardship,
and we will always give you thanks
through Jesus Christ, Lord of the harvest.
Amen.

Pastoral prayer: Eternal and gracious
God, we come into your presence with
thankful hearts for the blessings of life,
which come from your hand. We
humbly confess that we misuse and
abuse your gifts. Our sense of the sacred
has become dulled and mystery re-
duced to commonplace. Challenge us
for our failure to tend your garden
with responsibility and a
will to peace. Plant within us a
desire and determination to treat all
creation as holy; air and water, trees,
fruits, and flowers, birds and fish,
and cattle, all children, youth, women,
and men. Be especially near to
those this day for whom life is
more burden than gift. May your
word of hope from throughout us as
an encouragement to others. Bring
your Kingdom to fulfillment
as your servant Church seeks to
be a faithful witness to Jesus
Christ.