

The Cultivating Project

Liturgies for the Seed

By Christina Brianne Brown

FOR THE PLANTING OF THE SEED:

Oh Lord God, who created the deep crusts of the earth at the foundation of the world, bless this soil now as we plant this seed, and fuse together the death of this seed with the life of this soil that, resurrected in a new form, this seed may flourish in the brilliance of the morning light. And as our fingers sift through the dirt to make a bed for this seed, may we remember that it was from the dust of the earth through which we were made, and it is to new life through Christ that we have been transformed and remade. So, too, let this seed rise from the dirt as it transforms from a broken shell into a tender stalk - peering out of the dark and into the light, claiming a new beauty, rising to a new life.



FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THE SEED:

Oh God of life, we praise You for the birth of this little green shoot – may You bless it and imbue it with fresh strength as it pushes up through the dirt to find its life in You. Just as we, Your children, are reborn into new life, may You bless this little shoot with the growth and grace that accompanies the journey from the womb to the world; from soil to sunlight; from darkness to light. May Your gaze fall lovingly upon it as it braves the struggles of the atmosphere, and may it flourish in the constancy of Your presence. And, like the daily struggles of this little shoot against the nefarious forces of nature, may we remember that as we struggle against those same forces, it is our faithfulness and not our success that You seek, and that being birthed into the world of the Spirit requires a humble faith in You, the Great Gardener, who sows the soil of our souls. For it is our faith that produces perseverance, and perseverance that produces endurance, and endurance that produces an everlasting hope. It is within that hope that we flourish. Therefore, let us remember, that, like the journey of this little seed, the rebirthing of our souls is a reemergence from darkness to light, and that we, too, must abandon our habitat of darkness to embrace the grandeur of the light.



FOR THE DYING OF THE SEED:

Lord of Heaven and earth, You are the God of the living and the dead, and in You all things hold together. Help us to trust that, as this young plant dies the death of all living things, its glory is held in Your loving hands, and as it withers and curls its tendrils towards the earth, it still holds Your favor and is looked upon with Your love. Though it passes from life to death, Your pleasure in this little seedling and its faithfulness to your design upon all the greenery of the earth, remains. We, too, like this little plant, are creations of your pleasure and people of Your favor. May we remember that we are held in Your hands even more tenderly than this plant, and just as Your touch of creation and redemption rests upon this earth, so does Your promise of restoration. For embedded in death is resurrection, and in resurrection is the restoration of life. Help us to understand that, even as this little plant dies, the earth trembles with the hope of the whole world.