

Earth Spirit Rising- Top Rated Christian Prayers

TOP TIER: (Three 4's)

NUMBER	C22
TITLE	A Prayer in Advent
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	harshness of nature, Mother Church, rain
SEASON	Advent

DEAR God, all over the world now, the children of Holy Mother Church are singing: "Send down dew from above, you heavens, and let the skies pour down upon us the rain we long for, Him, the Just One. May He, the Savior, spring from the closed womb of the earth!" We know, Lord, and we have seen, what drought does to the land. We know, too, and have seen, the ravages of frost and cold. We have walked in barren fields and up dry hills, through dead, silent woods and lifeless valleys, and along thirsty beds of once flowing streams. We have seen, clearly enacted for us upon the land, what our life would be without You. We can understand, now, how we should long for Your coming. Come, dear Lord and Savior, and do not delay! Rise up in Your power and come! Let the rain of Your grace water the parched soil of our souls. Let the warmth of Your love thaw the coldness of our indifference. Let the life of Your Body and Blood vitalize our deadened energies, and stir us up to fruitful labor in Your vineyard.

O Eternal Father, rouse our hearts out of the sleep of sin, so that we may clear the path of Your Son into our souls. Each year in Advent, You gladden us with the thought of our redemption. Grant us, we pray You, that, as we receive Your Son as our Redeemer now, we may, in the future, gladly and confidently meet Him as our Judge. Amen.

NUMBER	C81
TITLE	N/A*
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	St. Basil the Great
YEAR	329-379
THEME	praise, life, creation, St. Basil
SEASON	Any

O GOD, ENLARGE within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers, the animals, to whom thou gave the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song,

has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee and that they love the sweetness of life.

*Quoted in *The Greening of the Church*, Sean McDonagh, 1990, Maryknoll: Orbis Books,

NUMBER	C85
TITLE	“Sermon to the Birds”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	St. Francis of Assisi
YEAR	circa 1220
THEME	St. Francis, birds, sermon, Noah
SEASON	Any [Feast Day, October 4]

MY LITTLE SISTERS, the birds, much bounden are you unto God, your creator, and always in every place ought you to praise him, for that he has given you liberty to fly about everywhere, and has also given you double and triple rainment; moreover he preserved your seed in the ark of Noah, that your race might not perish out of the world; still more are you beholden to him for the element of the air which he has appointed for you; beyond all this, you sow not, neither do you reap; and God feeds you, and gives you the streams and fountains for your drink; the mountains and valleys for your refuge and the high trees whereon to make your nests; and because you know not how to spin or sow, God clothes you, you and your children; wherefore your creator loves you much, seeing that he has bestowed on you so many benefits; and therefore, my little sisters, beware of the sin of ingratitude, and study always to give praises unto God.

NUMBER	C87
TITLE	N/A
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Hildegard of Bingen
YEAR	1098-1179
THEME	Spirit, cosmos, impurity, Hildegard, Bingen
SEASON	Any

HOLY SPIRIT,
 making life alive,
 moving in all things,
 root of all created being,
 cleansing the cosmos
 of every impurity,
 effacing guilt,
 anointing wounds.
 You are lustrous
 and praiseworthy life,
 You waken and re-awaken
 everything
 that is.

NUMBER	C88
TITLE	N/A
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Hildegard of Bingen
YEAR	1098-1179
THEME	Wisdom, wings, Earth, Hildegard, Bingen
SEASON	Any

O MOVING FORCE of Wisdom,
 encircling the wheel of the cosmos,
 Encompassing all that is,
 all that has life,
 in one vast circle.
 You have three wings: The first
 unfurls aloft in the highest heights.
 The second dips its way
 dripping sweat on the Earth.
 Over, under,
 and through all things whirls the third.
 Praise to you, O Wisdom,
 worthy of praise!

NUMBER	C89
TITLE	N/A
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Hildegard of Bingen
YEAR	1098-1179
THEME	sun, Earth, dawn, Hildegard, Bingen
SEASON	Any

O MOST NOBLE GREENNESS,
 rooted in the sun,
 shining forth in streaming splendor
 upon the wheel of Earth.
 You are encircled
 by the very arms
 of Divine mysteries.
 You are radiant like the red of dawn!
 You glow like the incandescence of the sun!

NUMBER	C92
TITLE	Servants of the Creator King
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian

AUTHOR Harry Martin, Dn.
YEAR 2003
THEME creation, eagle snow, servant, simplicity
SEASON Advent

Jesus, Love, we seek your coming.

As your servants we join with all creation in proclaiming your glory.

The winter barren trees look heavenward,

Anticipating the newness of life,

coming in the springs of your resurrection.

The soaring eagle lifts our hearts,

that with your holy angels,

we can climb the heights of your holy hills.

The whiteness of the fresh snow

refracts the light and beauty

that the call of your holiness brings to us.

Jesus, Love, our Creator King,

we rejoice at your coming,

and yet we sorrow.

Your Holy Word shines upon our path.

And we see...

Lives imprisoned and impoverished

by greed.

Country sides crushed and ravaged by wars

where hate, pride and arrogance reign.

We see waters poisoned by neglect,

Birdsongs of praise stilled

by the corruption of need and want.

Creator King, we weep with the doe

seeking her fawn

crushed by the rush of human traffic.

We sorrow with the unborn child

who will never know,

the beauty of the daybreak.

We weep, coming King,

Because we fail to see and cherish,

the holy beauty and joy

of all life and creation you have made.

Jesus, Love, we seek your coming.
 Open our hearts to your Presence,
 Our ears to your truth,
 Our eyes to the sacred trust of creation and life
 we share with all you have made.

Jesus, Love, we are your servants.
 As we seek your coming,
 May our wants,
 in simplicity share ... you.
 May our words,
 in gentle courage,
 acclaim your truth.

May our paths,
 bring us together
 to your holy hill.
 And there may we share the embrace
 of your mercy,
 that cleanses and renews
 your creation.
 That all creation may sing the praises
 of our Savior and King.

NUMBER	C99
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Julian of Norwich
YEAR	N/A
THEME	garden, plants, worship, plants
SEASON	Any

Be a gardener.
 Dig a ditch,
 toil and sweat,
 and turn the earth upside down
 and seek the deepness
 and water the plants in time.
 Continue this labor

and make sweet floods to run
 and noble and abundant fruits
 to spring.
 Take this food and drink
 and carry it to God
 as your true worship.

NUMBER	C104
TITLE	Deliver Us from Consumerism
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	-taken from Catholic Wisdom Leader's Guide
YEAR	N/A
THEME	consumerism, treasures, temptation
SEASON	Any

We live in your world, O God, and for this, we praise and thank you. Among your treasures we creatures have fashioned many things to make our lives easier, healthier, and freer. But we have also created more things than we need, more than we can ever use. When these things distract us from our purpose in this life, we are misusing the world you have created. When these things prevent others from having their basic needs met, your creation is corrupted. Help us to keep our eyes open to this temptation of consumerism. Help us to be followers of Jesus who are focused on the important and simple things in life -- Christians who care for others and are willing to share our riches with those who have unmet needs. Give us the courage to go against our culture when it confuses wants and needs. Remind us that when the journey of life in this world is complete, we take with us only what we have built inside ourselves: treasures of the heart, love and generosity, friendship and concern, caring and sharing. We pray for these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

NUMBER	C108
TITLE	Prayer for Autumn Days
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Author Unknown
YEAR	N/A
THEME	death, leaves, autumn, strength, geese, flowers, harvest
SEASON	Autumn

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful.

NUMBER	C112
TITLE	Prayer for Hurricane Season
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Source: Rosary Creations
YEAR	Contemporary
THEME	hurricane, natural disaster, Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother
SEASON	Any

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude; you are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control. The Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster. During this hurricane season, we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a storm-less eternity awaits us. Amen.

NUMBER

C137

TITLE	A Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Cecil Rajendra (Malaysia)
YEAR	tbd
THEME	families, survival, resources, terrorism, creation, destruction, possessions, pollution, Holy Spirit
SEASON	Any

Where families are fractured
By domestic upheavals
And children forced on to streets
To fight for survival,

Where more resources are spent
On arms and destruction
And less attention paid
To sickness and starvation,

Come Holy Spirit
Heal our wounds
Renew the Whole Creation!

Where the acquisition of things
Has become an obsession
And the worth of a human being
Is measured by one's possessions,

Where our air, trees and seas
Are besieged by pollution
And purblind mercenary greed
Threatens our environment,

Come Holy Spirit
Heal our wounds
Renew our Whole Creation!

Where countries are split apart
By communalism and racism
And innocent blood is spilt
By wanton acts of terrorism,

Where internecine warfare
Sets nation against nation
And a nuclear holocaust
Looms ominous on our horizon,

Come Holy Spirit
 Heal our wounds
 Renew the Whole Creation!

TIER TWO: Two 4's (Mean 3 2/3- 4)

NUMBER	C3
TITLE	“Canticle of the Sun”*
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	St. Francis of Assisi
YEAR	1182-1226
THEME	St. Francis, son, praise, sun, moon, fire, water, wind, weather, Italian
SEASON	Any [Feast Day, October 4]

**Translation from the original Italian*

Most high, all-powerful, all good, Lord!
 All praise is yours, all glory, all honor
 And all blessing.

To you alone, Most High, do they belong.
 No mortal lips are worthy
 To pronounce your name.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made,
 And first my lord Brother Sun,
 Who brings the day; and light you give to us
 through him.

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!
 Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars;
 In the heavens you have made them, bright
 And precious and fair.
 All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
 And fair and stormy, all the weather's moods,
 By which you cherish all that you have made.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water,
 so useful, lowly, precious, and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
 Through whom you brighten up the night.
 How beautiful he is, how joyful! Full of power and strength.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth,
 Who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces
 Various fruits and colored flowers and herbs.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through those who grant pardon
 For love of you; through those who endure
 Sickness and trial.

Happy those who endure in peace,
 By you, Most High, they will be crowned.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death,
 From whose embrace no mortal can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin!

Happy those She finds doing your will!
 The second death can do no harm to them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,
 And serve him with great humility.

NUMBER	C4
TITLE	“Canticle of the Sun”*
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	St. Francis of Assisi
YEAR	1182-1226
THEME	St. Francis, sun, praise, moon, fire, water, wind, weather, United States Catholic Conference
SEASON	Any

**Translation from United States Catholic Conference*

O most High, almighty, good Lord God,
 to you belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing!

Praised by my Lord God with all creatures;
 and especially our brother the sun,
 which brings us the day and the light;
 fair is he, and shining with a very great splendor:
 O Lord, he signifies you to us!

Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon,
 and for the stars,
 which God has set clear and lovely in heaven.

Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind,
and for air and cloud, calms and all weather,
by which you uphold in life all creatures.

Praised be my Lord for our sister water,
which is very serviceable to us,
and humble, and precious, and clean.

Praised be my Lord for brother fire,
through which you give us light in the darkness;
and he is bright, and pleasant, and very mighty,
and strong.

Praised be my Lord for our sister the Earth,
which sustains us and keeps us,
and yields diverse fruits, and flowers of many colors, and grass.

Praised be my Lord for all those who pardon
one another for God's love's sake,
and who endure weakness and tribulation;
blessed are they who peaceably shall endure,
for you, O most High, shall give them a crown!

Praised be my Lord for our sister,
the death of the body, from which no one escapes,
Woe to him who died in mortal sin!

Blessed are they who are found walking
by your most holy will,
for the second death shall have no
power to do them harm.

Praise you, and bless you the Lord
and give thanks to God, and serve God with great humility.

NUMBER	C16
TITLE	Blessing of Fields and Crops
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	source unknown
YEAR	N/A
THEME	Agriculture, harvest, planting, fields, crops
SEASON	Harvest

Loving Creator God,
We acknowledge you as the only source of growth and abundance.
You provide us with food for body and spirit.
With your help we plant our crops and by your power they produce our harvest.

In your kindness and love, make our work fruitful.
 Bless our fields and the crops we plant; let them yield a rich harvest.
 Grant favorable weather to make these fields productive.
 Guide the work of our hands, for in you we live and move and have our being.
 Help us bring you glory by using well and sharing the good things we receive from you.
 We ask this through Jesus, the Christ. Amen

NUMBER	C17
TITLE	Litany of Commitment
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer (litany)
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Jay C. Rochelle
YEAR	1990
THEME	stewardship, nonrenewable resources, solidarity with creation, creation, litany, responsive, faith
SEASON	Any

Leader: As we seek to relax our grip so that the earth, our fragile sister, might rest from our labors, help us to see our world more vividly than we have done in the past.

People: Grant us vision for the challenges of this age and give us hearts full of courage for the future.

Leader: As we seek to be wise stewards of the gifts of the earth in timber and oil, coal, and gas, help us to know your world more humanely than we have in the past.

People: Make us learn that wisdom which we see among those wise and humble people of the earth, that we might walk with care and reverence so as to caress our fair sister.

Leader: Sharing God, draw us to contemplation and silence so that we might see, in wonder, our lives intertwined with the squirrels and the cardinal, the creatures great and small, the beauty of each season. Help us to see the birth, growth, death, and rebirth so as to give us courage in the ongoing creation of our Creator.

People: Deepen our faith and enliven our thinking, nourish our bodies and strengthen our souls, that we may be your message in the world, your servants for the common wellness of the earth. Make us weavers of a new order, crafters of a new earth.

Leader: Grant us grace through the Christ of the Cosmos. Call us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, in the love with earth, and with our brothers, and sisters. Give us a measure of the Spirit that these commitments we make before you might make our work holy.

Leader: Let us go forth from this sacred ark with steady hand up lifted heart, with clear eye and alert mind, with firm step, and willing hands. May we arrive at fresh springs of renewal through God's holy Word, in our communities of faith, and in deep solidarity with all creation.

People: Amen. Let all the creation hear and bear witness. Amen

NUMBER	C18
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TITLE	Two Prayers by St. Patrick
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	St. Patrick
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Fire, Lightning, rocks, wind, snow, Trinity, Creation, Darkness, Tara
SEASON	Any

I.

At Tara today in this fateful hour
 I place all heaven with its power,
 And the sun with its brightness,
 And the snow with its whiteness,
 And Fire with all the strength it hath,
 And Lightning with its rapid wrath,
 And the winds with their swiftness along their path,
 And the sea with its deepness,
 And the rocks with their steepness
 And the Earth with its starkness;
 All these I place
 By God's almighty help and grace,
 Between myself and the powers of Darkness.

II.

I arise today
 Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
 Through a belief in threeness,
 Through confession of the oneness
 Of the Creator of Creation.

I arise today
 Through the strength of heaven,
 Light of sun,
 Radiance of moon,
 Splendor of fire,
 Speed of lightning,
 Swiftness of wind,
 Depth of sea,
 Stability of earth,
 Firmness of rock.

I arise today
 Through a might, the invocation of the Trinity,
 Through belief in the threeness,

Through confession of the oneness
of the Creator of Creation.

NUMBER	C19
TITLE	Hymn of the Universe
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Teilhard de Chardin
YEAR	Contemporary
THEME	cosmology, theology, Being-in-itself, Teilhard de Chardin, Center of the Universe, Source
SEASON	Any

I live at the heart of a single, unique Element, the Center of the universe, and present in each part of it: personal Love and cosmic Power.

To attain to him and become merged into his life I have before me the entire universe with its noble struggles, its impassioned quests, its myriad of souls to be healed and made perfect. I can and I must throw myself into the thick of human endeavor, and with no stopping for breath. For the more I bring my efforts to bear on the whole surface of reality, the more also will I attain to Christ and cling close to him. God who is eternal Being-in-itself, is, one might say, ever in process of formation for us.

And God is also the heart of everything; so much so that the vast setting of the universe might be engulfed or wither away or be creation's dust, which is vitalized by a halo of energy and glory, to be swept away, the substantial Reality wherein every perfection is incorruptibly contained and possessed would remain intact; the rays would be drawn back onto their Source and there I should still hold them all in close embrace.

NUMBER	C36
TITLE	A Prayer in Autumn for Country Living
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	www.ncrlc.com
YEAR	Contemporary
THEME	autumn, planting, growing, harvest, minerals, thanks,
SEASON	Any [Fall, Winter]

GOOD and generous Lord, You have once more brought the year full circle, through planting and growing and ripening to harvest time, and autumn.

We thank You for the sun and the wind, the rain and the dew, the minerals of the earth and all the plants that grow and all the beasts and birds of farm and field. We marvel at Your wonderful ways of bringing food from the earth for man's good.

Dear God, help us to use Your rich gifts as You want us to. Teach us to share them with our neighbor when he is in need. Make us see, in the marvelous succession of sea sons, and in the growth and ripening of our crops, the merciful, generous hand of Your divine providence.

Help us to realize, too, that if we keep Your commandments and live according to the inspirations of Your grace, we shall also reap a plentiful harvest in the autumn of our lifetime: a harvest that we will be able to enjoy for ever and ever, where no rust can destroy, nor blight spoil any least part of it. Amen.

NUMBER	C74
TITLE	Prayer When Moving Off the Farm
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	www.ncrlc.com
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	farm, agriculture, loss, moving
SEASON	Any

The time has come, God. Moving day is near.

We give thanks for the blessing of being part of your creation by our life on this land.

May our love of nature, the sacredness and beauty we see in all life and growth, and the ability to place our trust in you go with us as we move.

Help us to let go of our life here, with sadness and thanksgiving.

Help us to look forward to the new experiences to come.

Grant that our memories may sustain us through the changes.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

NUMBER	C80
TITLE	“An Earth Day Prayer”*
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian- ELCA
AUTHOR	Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel (Eco-Justice Ministry)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Earth Day, planet, creation
SEASON	Earth Day

**This prayer uses times of silence in which members of the congregation are moved by the Spirit into a personal engagement with several kinds of confession, discernment and hope. It is important that these moments of silence be long enough that people can enter into genuine*

prayer.

While this outline could be the core of a pastoral prayer, it could also be presented in other ways. For example, a series of readers could be used, each presenting a paragraph.

We offer you our thanks, Creator God, for this wondrous planet that is our home. We are moved to awe when we are touched by the beauty, complexity, diversity, abundance and enormous scale of this world -- this one small corner of your creation.

On this Earth Day weekend, we join with people from all around the world. As part of a global community, we lift up our heartfelt hopes for the health and sustainability for your Earth, and for all that dwells within it. We have read the news, O God, and we have seen the evidence of environmental problems ranging from local to global. We are deeply concerned, and we do want to find paths to healing. *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Call us to compassion at the state of the Earth.*

We lift up, too, our grief and our confusion in the face of these difficult problems. We feel pain and loss at the extinction of species. We feel anguish at spreading health problems that spring from environmental causes. We are anxious about diminished resources and demolished habitats. We hear mixed messages, and feel divided loyalties. We want to do the right thing, but it can be hard to find truth, and hard to know what to do. *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our troubled emotions and our confused thoughts.*

We name and confess our personal involvement in the Earth's distress. Knowingly and consciously, we each engage in actions and behaviors that take a toll on our planet, and that degrade our community. *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our confession of hurtful acts.*

We also name and confess our lack of engagement, our lack of action. We have not made practical choices or taken realistic actions that would have made us agents of help and healing for the Earth. We have been silent and distant when we could have spoken and been engaged. *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our confession of inaction.*

We know, O God, that many of the environmental problems that so concern us are not driven by personal choices alone. The state of the world is shaped by governmental policies, economic institutions, corporate deeds, social values, and diffuse cultural trends. While these are not matters of private choice, we do admit to our participation in these broader powers. *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our complicity and involvement in the powers and principalities.*

These are difficult and changing times. The very rules of life and ethics are changing around us. We live in a world with an exploding human population, and with astounding and powerful new technologies. We take heed of new scientific discoveries, and discover fresh wisdom in ancient truths that were once thought stale. We are coming to realize that the very things we have held close to our hearts as normal, good and right are now at the core of what brings death, destruction and instability. *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our fear and confusion in this time of change.*

Gracious and loving God, God of the Exodus and Spirit of the prophets, God made flesh among us in Jesus our Christ -- be with us. Do not allow us to turn away from the pain

and confusion that surrounds us. Call us now, as you always have, to be engaged and relevant to this moment in history. Call us to new visions, new understandings and new relationships. Fill us with your deep forgiveness and lead us into life-giving hope. Grant us courage to face the challenges of this day. *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our commitment to faithfulness.*

Spirit of God, we rejoice that you have moved within us and enriched our prayer. By your grace and power, we are forgiven and made new. By your love, we find healing for our hurt, and we are called to bring healing to your creation. With hope and joy, we raise these prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

NUMBER	C83
TITLE	statement from Homilies on the Hexaemeron, VI, 1.
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	St. Basil the Great
YEAR	329-379
THEME	admiration, creation, flowers, plants, St. Basil
SEASON	Any

I WANT TO awake in you a deep admiration for creation, until you in every place, contemplating plants and flowers, are overcome by a living remembrance of the Creator.

NUMBER	C84
TITLE	statement from Hexameron, Homily V
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	St. Basil the Great
YEAR	329-379
THEME	creation, admiration, grass, St. Basil
SEASON	Any

I WANT CREATION to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you a clear remembrance of the Creator....One blade of grass or one speck of dust is enough to occupy your entire mind in beholding the art with which it has been made.

NUMBER	C86
TITLE	N/A
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Hildegard of Bingen
YEAR	1098-1179
THEME	creation, rain, nature, blossoms, fruits, Hildegard, Bingen

SEASON Any
 O ETERNAL STRENGTH,
 You ordered all things within your heart.
 All things were created through your Word,
 Just as you wished.

NOW HERE is the image of the power of God...
 I am the one whose praise echoes on high.
 I adorn all the earth.
 I am the breeze that nurtures all things green.
 I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits.
 I am led by the spirit to feed the purest streams.
 I am the rain coming from the dew that caused the grasses to laugh with the joy of life.
 I am the yearning for good....
 God's majesty is glorified in the manifestations of every manner of nature's fruitfulness.
 This is possible, possible through the right and holy utilization of the earth, the earth in
 which humankind has its source.
 The sum total of heaven and earth, everything in nature, is thus won to use and purpose.
 It becomes a temple and altar for the service of God.

NUMBER	C90
TITLE	Mother Earth
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	St. Francis of Assisi
YEAR	1182-1226
THEME	Mother Earth, St. Francis, praise, fruits, flowers
SEASON	Any [Feast Day, October 4]

Dear mother earth, who day by day
 Unfolds rich blessing on our way,
 O praise God! Alleluia!
 The fruits and flowers that verdant grow,
 Let them his praise abundant show.
 O praise God, O praise God,
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

NUMBER	C103
TITLE	Keep This Treasure, Your Earth, Safe from Harm
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	from Catholic Wisdom Leader's Guide
YEAR	N/A
THEME	Protection, Holy Spirit, treasure, earth
SEASON	Any

Good and gracious God, we stand in awe of your power to create a magnificent world for us to enjoy during our lifetime. Help us to see it anew as the wonder that it is. Open our eyes and enlighten our minds to understand the power we hold and responsibility we have to keep it as a gift that we only borrow for our lifetime, to return to you and the generations to follow. Send you Holy Spirit to be here as we reflect in our hearts and minds on your call to us as human beings and Christians to keep this treasure, your earth, safe from harm. Amen.

NUMBER C126
 TITLE "The Tree of Life"
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Christian
 AUTHOR [Celtic Prayer]
 YEAR N/A
 THEME Tree of Life, blossoms, branches, people, birds, King, praise, breath
 SEASON Any

O, King of the Tree of Life,
 The blossoms on the branches are your people,
 The singing birds are your angels,
 The whispering breeze is your Spirit.

O, King of the Tree of Life,
 May the blossoms bring forth the sweetest fruit,
 May the birds sing out the highest praise
 May your Spirit cover all with his gentle breath.

NUMBER C136
 TITLE "O God, the Holy Spirit"
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Christian
 AUTHOR source: World Council of Churches(?). *Come Holy Spirit: Renew the Whole Creation*
 YEAR 1989
 THEME Holy Spirit,
 SEASON Any

Come to us, and among us:
 Come as the wind, and cleanse us;
 Come as the fire, and burn;
 Come as the dew, and refresh:
 Convict, convert, and consecrate
 Many hearts and lives
 To our great good
 And thy greater glory,

And this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen"

TIER THREE: Two 4's (Mean 3 1/3- 3 2/3)

NUMBER	C78
TITLE	For Those Who Suffer Hunger
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	www.ncrlc.com
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	hunger, suffering, bread
SEASON	Any

Gracious God,
 God of goodness,
 you provide for all your creation.
 Give us an effective love for our brothers, sisters
 and especially children, who suffer from lack of
 food.
 Help us do all we can to relieve their hunger, that
 they may serve you with carefree hearts.
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
 Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
 Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
 Amen.

(or)

God, the provider of the living bread from
 heaven, give us the courage and strength to go to
 the aid of our hungry brothers and sisters.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

NUMBER	C79
TITLE	The Blessing of the Parched Earth
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	www.ncrlc.com
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	land, agriculture, dry season, earth
SEASON	Any

Blessed are you, O God, king of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory

and nurture it with sun and rain and the passing seasons. We lift our voices in praise and sing with all creation to give you glory.

Bless now our parched earth. Open your heavens wide and send forth the rains that nurture the earth, the fields and their crops, your people and all your creatures. Make the earth to break forth in abundance, so that the harvest from your hand may enrich our lives, and all people see the greatness of God.

Bless also those who are in any distress from this hot dry season: the elderly, the poor, the homeless, the industries and people who depend upon the land. Save us all by your gracious hand. Heal us and bind us up in faith.

To you be honor and glory and praise, with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and in all ages to come.

C: Amen

FOURTH TIER: One 4 (Mean 3 1/3 – 3 2/3)

NUMBER	C13
TITLE	Responsive Prayer of Thanksgiving
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer [responsive]
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	Contemporary
THEME	forests, creation, birds, waters, response, deserts, mountains, wild
SEASON	Any

Leader: Almighty God, who created Heaven and Earth through your Word, we praise you for your glorious creation and give thanks that you have entrusted its care to us. From your commandment to Adam and Eve to tend and keep the garden, to all of us living in modern communities around the world, we gratefully reaffirm our privilege and responsibility to be faithful, just, and loving tenants of your lands and guardians of the life they support.

We thank you for:

Leader: The grandeur of the forests

People: The towering trees, singing birds, and clean, peaceful waters that quench our thirsts

Leader: The starkness of the deserts and the towering might of the mountains

People: The example of strength they provide and the wild array of life you have created to inhabit them

Leader: The solitude of your wilderness

People: The opportunities it provides for meditative prayer, spiritual journey, and peaceful connection to you

Leader: The productivity of the fields

People: The soil and water that give life to the crops that nourish us

and the communities that sustain us
Leader: The equitable sharing of those lands set aside for protection
People: The parks where we hike and play, the refuges that sustain
wildlife, the cultural sites that remind us of our history, and
all the opportunities we have to experience your creation
Leader: In Jesus' name we pray
People: Amen.

NUMBER	C34
TITLE	Prayer for Rain
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	(bd)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	rain
SEASON	Any

O GOD, in whom we live and move and have our being, grant us rain in due abundance, that being sufficiently helped with temporal gifts we may seek with more confidence those that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NUMBER	C93
TITLE	A Prayer for the Rural Family*
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	www.ncrlc.com
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	farmer, agriculture, weather, harvest, thanks, rural
SEASON	Any

Wise and compassionate God, accept this our prayer;
Sheltered from storm and darkness, under this roof,
This family kneels to adore You.
For the day just past,
For keeping us safely, body and soul,
Now we most humbly Thank You.
For hilltops and verdure,
For sunlight and wind and boundless space,
For rain and sky's rich color,
For boughs and blossoms and cold clean snow,
We are eternally grateful.
For birds and beasts,
For the good black earth and the seeds producing
The plenteous harvest; for times without number
When we have eaten of that same harvest,
We thank You and bless You forever.

Deliver us safely, if such be Your will,
 From deluge and drought,
 From famine and war and disaster.
 Give us tomorrow, as yesterday and today.
 All things most needed for rightful living;
 And move our hearts that we may have sorrow
 For sinning against You.
 God of the hearth and the harvest,
 Your children, here kneeling, adore You.
 Bless now our rest
 And cherish us safe till the morrow.

*Prayer Source: *Novena in Honor of St. Isidore: Patron of Farmers* by National Catholic Rural Life Conference, National Catholic Rural Life Conference

NUMBER	C94
TITLE	Prayers of Petition
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	N/A
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	creation, technology, poor, petition, poverty
SEASON	Any

O Lord, grant us the grace to respect and care for Your creation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, bless all of your creatures as a sign of Your wondrous love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us to end the suffering of the poor and bring healing to all of Your creation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us to use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage we have done to Your creation and to sustain Your gift of nature.

Lord, hear our prayer.

NUMBER	C98
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Mary Goergen, O.S.F.
YEAR	N/A
THEME	praise, butterfly, dragonfly, wings, weather, creation, insects, frogs, spring, birds
SEASON	Spring

Be praised, my God, by butterfly and dragonfly wings exercising for their first flight.

Be praised by lightning and thunder causing spring showers.

Be praised by the silent voice of grass growing and trees budding.

Be praised by all the colorful flower trumpets of spring.

Be praised by downy feathers freshly dried on newly hatched ducklings and chicks.

Be praised by the songs of birds, crickets, and frogs.

Be praised, my God, by all your creation which tells of new life.

NUMBER	C110
TITLE	Child's Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Traditional
YEAR	Traditional
THEME	children, blessing, small things
SEASON	Any

Dear Father, hear and bless
 Thy beasts and singing birds:
 And guard with tenderness
 Small things that have no words.

NUMBER	C129
TITLE	"The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory"
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	George MacLeod
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	morning, eternity, garden, creation, beauty, lichen, sins, autumn, night
SEASON	Any

Almighty God, Creator:
 The morning is yours, rising into fullness.
 The summer is yours, dipping into autumn.
 Eternity is yours, dipping into time.
 The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers, the lichen on the rocks, the tang of seaweed,
 All are yours.
 Gladly we live in this garden of your creating.

But creation is not enough.
 Always in the beauty, the foreshadowing of decay.

The lambs frolicking careless, so soon to be led off to slaughter.
 Nature red and scarred as well as lush and green.
 In the garden also:
 Always the thorn.
 Creation is not enough.

Almighty God, Redeemer:
 The sap of life in our bones and being is yours,
 Lifting us to ecstasy.
 But always in the beauty: the tang of sin, in our consciences.
 The dry lichen of sins long dead, but seared upon our minds.
 In the garden that is each of us, always the thorn.

Yet all are yours as we yield them again to you.
 Not only our lives that you have given are yours:
 But also our sins that you have taken.
 Even our livid rebellions and putrid sins:
 You have taken them all away
 And nailed them to the Cross!
 Our redemption is enough: and we are free.

Holy Spirit, Enlivener:
 Breathe on us, fill us with life anew.
 In your new creation, already upon us, breaking through, groaning and travailing,
 But already breaking through,
 Breathe on us.

Till that day when night and autumn vanish:
 And lambs grown sheep are no more slaughtered:
 And even the thorn shall fade
 And the whole earth shall cry Glory at the marriage feast of the Lamb.
 In this new creation, already upon us,
 Fill us with life anew.

NUMBER	C132
TITLE	“Cosmic Life”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	Teilhard de Chardin
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	cosmology, love, mind, life-giving ambience, nature, human heart, gentle, grace, life, unity
SEASON	any

Lord Jesus Christ, you truly contain within your gentleness, within your humanity, all the unyielding immensity and grandeur of the world. And it is because of this, it is because there exists in you this ineffable synthesis of what our human thought and experience would never have dared join together in order to adore them, element and totality, the one

and the many, mind and matter, the infinite and personal; it is because of the indefinable contours which this complexity gives to your appearance and to your activity, that my heart, enamored of cosmic reality, gives itself passionately to you.

I love you, Lord Jesus, because of the multitude who shelter within you and whom, if one clings closely to you, one can hear with all the other beings murmuring, praying, weeping.

I love you because of the transcendent and inexorable fixity of your purposes, which causes your sweet friendship to be coloured by an intransigent determinism and to gather us all ruthlessly into the folds of its will.

I love you as the source, the activating and life-giving ambience, the term and consummation, of the world, even of the natural world, and of its processes of becoming.

You are the centre at which all things meet and which stretches out over all things so as to draw them back into itself: I love you for the extensions of your body and soul to the farthest corners of creation through grace, through life, and through matter.

Lord Jesus, you who are as gentle as the human heart, as fiery as the forces of nature, as intimate as life itself, you in whom I can melt away and with whom I must have mastery and freedom: I love you as the world, as this world which has captivated my heart; and it is you, I realize, that my brother-men, even those who do not believe, sense and seek throughout the magic immensities of the cosmos.

Lord Jesus, you are the centre towards which all things are moving: if it be possible, make a place for us all in the company of those elect and holy ones whom your loving care has liberated one by one from the chaos of our present existence and who now are being slowly incorporated into you in the unity of the new earth.

FIFTH TIER: One 4 (Mean 3.16- 3 1/3)

NUMBER	C15
TITLE	Blessing Prayer for Seeds
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	Contemporary
THEME	Seeds, garden, food
SEASON	Rogation Days

God, Source of all life,
 who did hide your seeds in all that lives,
 be present here
 as we greet these tiny seeds
 with their gifts of life.
 Seeds of Life, so small,
 and yet, in the mystery of death and burial,
 you will produce life tenfold and more.
 We sprinkle you with water,
 sacred sign of life,
 asking that you may be

embraced by our mother the earth,
 fed by rain
 and kissed gently by the sun.
 In caring for you
 we shall experience
 the most ancient profession of the human family,
 the primal vocation
 of being workers in the garden.
 Soon you will be our pride and joy.
 Soon you will be our food
 as we give up your life
 that we may live.
 Seeds,
 pregnant with life,
 teach us the Easter Secret of Life,
 as we ask God to bless you.

Amen.

NUMBER	C109
TITLE	Thank You for This Earth
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Christian
AUTHOR	appleseeds.org
YEAR	N/A
THEME	thanks, creation, beauty, wonder
SEASON	Any

O God,

We thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be.

Amen.

NUMBER C116
 TITLE You Called Me
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Christian
 AUTHOR Sister Helen Marie Gilsdorf
 YEAR 1978
 THEME water, creation
 SEASON Any

You called me to the water, and holy is Your name.

You called me to the water, and holy is Your name.

You called me to the water, to become a new creation, and holy, holy is Your name.

NUMBER C117
 TITLE [unknown]
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Christian
 AUTHOR Venantius Honorius Clementianus Fortunatus
 YEAR 16th century
 THEME Cross, beauty, tree, Fortunatus, Venantius
 SEASON Any

Faithful Cross! Above all other,
 one and only noble tree!

None in foliage, none in blossom,
 None in fruit they peer may be:

Sweetest wood and sweetest iron!
 Sweetest weight is hung on thee.

Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory!
 Thy relaxing sinews bend;

For awhile the ancient rigor
 That they birth bestowed, suspend;

And the King of heavenly beauty
 Gently on thine arms extend.

NUMBER C118
 TITLE excerpt from the "Spiritual Canticle"
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Christian
 AUTHOR St. John of the Cross
 YEAR 16th century
 THEME mountains, love, valleys, breezes, night, music, rivers,
 islands, St. John of the Cross, Spiritual Canticle
 SEASON Any

My Beloved is the mountains.
 And lonely wooded valleys,
 Strange islands,

And resounding rivers,
The whistling of love-stirring breezes
The tranquil night,
At the time of rising dawn,
Silent music,
Sounding solitude,
The supper that refreshes and deepens love.
