

August ~ Blessing of First Fruits

From early times, *first fruits* were something special. They were the first taste of a new season's produce with a promise of more variety and quantity to come. An end of the fast from fresh food and from a dwindling amount of last year's harvest. *First fruits* were seen as sacred. The best portion is to be offered in thanksgiving to the Creator, and then shared with those most in need and with each other as a blessing from God.

As preparation for this blessing, each person should bring the "first harvest/first fruits" of this growing season's labors.

Opening Prayer

Creator and ruler of the universe, we thank You for Your guidance. Help us to be attentive to Your ways as we offer You the first fruits of our labor. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Before departing:

Closing Blessing

O Bountiful Giver of gifts, you provide what we need for abundant living. You give us the strength of our bodies so we may work in your vineyard, providing for ourselves and those you have placed in our care.

We offer you thanks for these beautiful and useful gifts, the first and best of what we have. Make us always mindful of Your continuous symphony of life and love first found in the Garden of Eden by our parents Adam and Eve and the laborers of the land. Though our work has at times been difficult, we rejoice that trouble of every kind has been overcome with your help. May all who join in tasting the first fruits of our labor know the joy of your immeasurable love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**