

Grace

Thanks & blessing be
to the Sun & the Earth
for this bread & this wine,
 this fruit, this meat, this salt.
 this food;
thanks be & blessing to them
who prepare it, who serve it;
thanks & blessing to them
who share it
 (& also the absent & the dead).
Thanks & blessing to them who bring it
 (may they not want),
to them who plant & tend it,
harvest & gather it
 (may they not want);
thanks & blessing to them who work
 & blessing to them who cannot;
may they not want—for their hunger
 sours the wine & robs
 the taste from the salt.
Thanks be for the sustenance & strength
for our dance & the work of justice, of peace.

By Rafael Jesus Gonzalez, from *In Praise of Fertile Land*, [Whit Press, Washington](#).

IN PRAISE OF FERTILE LAND - An Anthology of Poetry, Parable and Story

Edited by Claudia Mauro

In Praise of Fertile Land is a unique nonprofit publishing project - a feast of poetry and stories uniting the voices of our neighbors, our kids and our finest poets and storytellers. This anthology honors the people, places, and labor of our fertile lands.

This Anthology features work by: **Lucille Clifton, Wendell Berry, Emily Dickinson, Joy Harjo, Langston Hughes, Seamus Heaney, Ebone Jones, Maxine Kumin, Denise Levertov, Li Young Lee, Pablo Neruda, Naomi Shihab Nye, Marge Piercy, Ntozake Shange and many more.** All royalties from the sale of this book go directly to programs that preserve and protect our precious remaining farmlands.