

**Rogation Sunday**

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**Opening Sentence**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

And the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Welcome**

**Collect /Opening Prayer/Opening Sentence**

Those who sow bountifully will also reap bountifully Corinthians 9.6

**Opening hymn or Worship song**

**Invitation to Confession**

Lord, you give us this good earth,

yet we take your generous gifts for granted.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,

but we squander its rich resources.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,

but we fail to share your bounty with all of your children.

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.**

***Scripture Readings***

***First reading***

***Hymn or Worship Song***

***Gospel Acclamations***

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**‘Ask and you will receive,’ says the Lord,**

**‘so that your joy may be complete.’ John 16.24**

**Alleluia.**

**Second reading**

**Sermon**

**Intercessions**

Let us ask the God of creation to send a blessing upon us.

Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Let the earth be fruitful

and its resources be hallowed.

*We ask in faith:*

**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord.

Prosper the work of our hands;

may all find dignity and just reward in their work;

free the exploited and oppressed.

*We ask in faith:*

**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Guide us into a sustainable future,

and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.

*We ask in faith:*

**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord.

Teach us to cherish the water of the earth,

and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.

*We ask in faith*:

**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon aid agencies send a blessing, O Lord.

Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry;

where war brings want, and children go hungry;

where the poor cry out for bread and for justice,

give hands to care and heal, and compel us to be generous.

*We ask in faith:*

**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

We ask you to hear us, good Lord,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Introduction to the Peace**

**By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving**,

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God,

which passes all understanding,

will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4.6,7

**Hymn or Worship Song**

The Eucharistic Prayer

**Prayers at the Preparation of the Table**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

Through him you have created us in your own image,

and made us stewards of your good creation.

Through him you teach us to exult in the birds of the air,

the lilies of the field, the precious and life-giving crops of the earth.

Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,

giving him to die upon the cross

and to rise again for our salvation.

Through him, you begin your work of new creation,

as we look for a new heaven and a new earth

in which your righteousness dwells.

Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,

and give voice to every creature under heaven,

for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**Great is the mystery of faith**

**Christ has died, Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

As our Saviour Jesus Christ has taught, so we pray

***The Lord’s Prayer***

***The Giving of Communion***

God’s holy gifts for God’s holy people

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord

To the glory of God the Father.

***The Distribution of Bread and Wine***

***Hymn or Worship Song(s)***

***The Prayer after Communion***

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe,

Creator and giver of life,

To you be praise and glory for ever:

In Jesus your light has shone out;

And you have given your Holy Spirit

As a mighty stream of life-giving water

To refresh and renew the face of the earth.

Let your light shine in us

That we may be beacons of justice

And bearers of hope

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God forever.**

**Blessing**

**and Dismissal**

Go in the light and peace of Christ,

**Thanks be to God.**

**Rogationtide Reflection**

Rogationtide is one of the ancient agricultural festivals, when processions take place to bless the crops and walk around the parish boundaries including asking (Latin ‘rogare’ – to ask) God’s blessings on the fields, the crops and the parish, that all for the ’ fruits of the field’ will flourish in the coming months.

In the church calendar, there are three days midweek in the week beginning the 6th Sunday of Easter and just before Ascension, which are marked ‘Rogation’. Often that Sunday can be a good time to mark and celebrate ‘Rogationtide’.

Rogation takes place, then, in the springtime, when there is a renewing of the earth. It follows Easter, the season or resurrection. Renewal and resurrection are therefore also themes of this occasion.

Other themes and concerns will include firstly, the enjoyment of and access to the countryside, and conservation of species not directly connected with economic profit for the landowner of the land in which they flourish.

Secondly, ecological insight of the interrelatedness of the created order.

Thirdly, reflection upon humankind’s relationship to the natural order. What does it mean to have ‘dominion’ under God for the plants bearing seeds, the tress bearing fruit, the green plants; the cattle, the wild animals and reptile, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea (Genesis 1:27-31). Are we good rulers made in God’s image to nurture the rest of creation?

Lastly, Rogation Sunday often precedes Christian Aid Week, and this reminds us of the needs of the poor and the virtues of hope and justice.

Some places postpone celebrating until Trinity Sunday, which is often at the beginning of June, coinciding with World Environment Day (5th June).

It is a time to celebrate the fruits of our parish, whether it be rural, urban or something in-between, whatever those fruits might be, and to ask God’s blessing that we may all grow in the spirit of God to enable us to be true children of God. It is also a time to remember our farmers, at home or abroad who provide food for our table.