

Service of Rogation

A Spring Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving

We frequently think of seedtime, planting, and prayers for an abundant harvest as the main emphasis of rogation, but the word “rogation” actually takes its meaning from the Latin word “rogare” which means “to beseech”.

This comes from 5th century France: after horrible natural disasters, the Bishop required the people to make a solemn 3-day observance in order

to atone for their sin; the observance consisted of 3 main

parts: the people were to petition

God for

forgiveness;

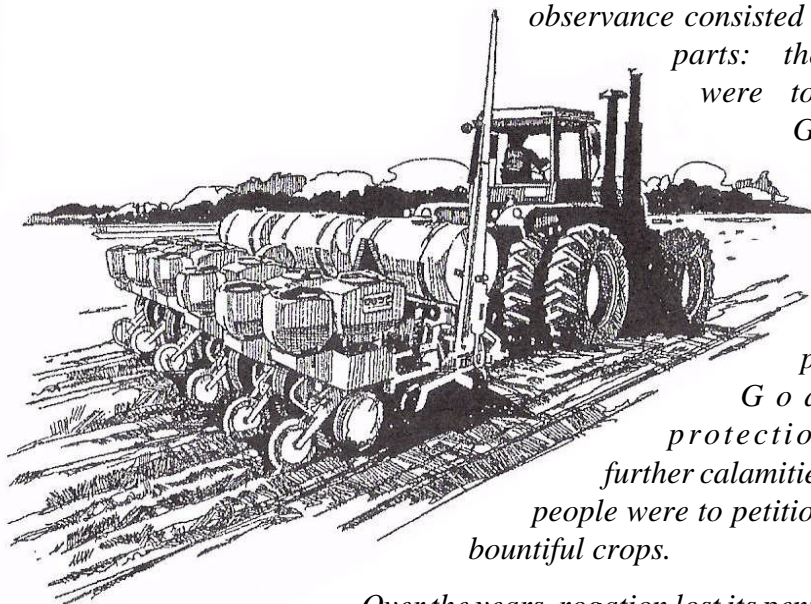
the people were to petition

God for

protection from

further calamities; and the people were to petition God for

bountiful crops.



Over the years, rogation lost its penitential air and became festive. Present traditions include

“blessing of the fields” with processions through local fields, a singing of the litany, and offering prayers for God’s protection and favor.

The spiritual lessons of rogation have also developed: God and humanity cooperate in the creative processes of agriculture; tilling and caring for the soil are tasks and privileges given by God; and the life-giving power of the sown seed depends on God’s goodness. These relationships result in a bountiful harvest.

In this service we will bring forward the rogation symbols of seed, of soil, and of water with the bread and wine for the Eucharist. They all will be presented with the gifts of the offering.

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Prelude

Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Creating God, you know us better than we know ourselves; we cannot keep secrets from you. You know the dark places of our hearts where we try to hide that which we do not want you to see. Purify these dark places so that we may love you as we should. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P We are sinful creatures; we cannot deny it or hide from it. But we can confess our sins to our God who created us. And God, who longs for us to be whole, will forgive us our sins and purify our hearts.

C We confess to you, Creating God, that we are sinners. We have sinned against you in our hearts with that which we keep secret; we have sinned against you in our words of unkindness against our neighbors; we have sinned against you in our actions that do not glorify your name. Because of our sin, we are not able to love you; nor can we love our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son. Forgive us so that we may live in wholeness. Amen

P Jesus Christ was given to die for the sins of all people—once for all time. Because of his suffering, death, and resurrection, God accounts to us Christ’s righteousness. We are forgiven and freed to live in wholeness by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn “Come, You Thankful People, Come” LBW # 407

Greeting

P The grace of our redeeming Lord Jesus Christ, the creating love of God, and the communion of the sanctifying Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Opening Dialog

P O Creator God, with your breath you created light and darkness.

C And it was good

P By your word, you created the heavens.

C And it was good.

P You created the dry land of earth, and the waters of the seas.

C And it was good.

P By your word,. you called forth growing things: plants, fruit, trees.

C And it was good.

P You created the sun and the moon to order the days and nights.

C And it was good.

P You created the living creatures in the waters, and the living creatures of the air.

C And it was good.

P You created the living creatures of the land: cattle, and wild animals; everything that moves upon the land.

C And it was good.

P By your word, you created humankind-both female and male-to care for the earth and all that is over, on and in it. And to these new creatures, you gave everything that you had made.

C And it was good. Amen.

Psalm of Praise - Psalm 19:1-6

P The heavens declare the glory of God,

C And the firmament shows God's handiwork.

P One day tells its tale to another,

C And one night imparts knowledge for another,

P Although they have no words or language,

C And their voices are not heard,

P Their sound has gone out into all lands,

C And their message to the ends of the world

P In the deep, God has set a pavilion for the sun;

C It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

P It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;

C Nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

C Creating God, you have made our world and all that is in it. We give you thanks for the glories that you have presented to us as stewards of this earth. We ask for your guidance as we enter a new season of growing, that we may work the land carefully and with the love of your creation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

<i>First Lesson</i>		Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8
<i>Psalm</i>	“Many and Great” - based on Psalm 8	WoV # 794
<i>Second Lesson</i>		1 Corinthians 3:5-9
<i>Gospel</i>		Matthew 13:18-23
<i>Children's Sermon</i>		
<i>Hymn</i>	“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”	WoV # 713
<i>Sermon</i>		
<i>Hymn of the Day</i>	“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”	LBW # 362

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Creed

P In celebration of God's creation, let us confess our faith using Martin Luther's meaning of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that God has made me and all creatures. That he has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses. That He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. For all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray to the God who has created us and all that exists in this world, saying: Creating God, **make us your faithful stewards.**

P We pray for those people in the world who go hungry every day, for the children who have not known the taste of bread. Creating God, **make us your faithful stewards.**

P We pray for those people in our community who do not have enough to eat, for the ones who are not able to eat nutritionally balanced meals. Creating God, **make us your faithful stewards.**

P We pray for the governments around the world that they make good and wise decisions regarding food for their peoples. Creating God, **make us your faithful stewards.**

P We pray for the ones who will soon begin to till, plant, and care for the land so that there will be enough for all to eat. Creating God, **make us your faithful stewards.**

P God, you call us to exercise good stewardship over the land. You call us to care for the land with love and compassion. Help us to answer your call. Help us to tend the land in ways that will make it last, to grow crops that do not damage the land, to engage in sustainable agriculture. Creating God, **make us your faithful stewards.**

P Giver of good gifts, we give you thanks that we are able to come before you with our petitions. We ask for your good favor in response to each of these, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

The Peace Is Shared

P The peace of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us share this peace with one another.

The Offering

Offertory Hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

WoV # 754

Offering Prayer

P It is with a spirit of joy that we bring these elements before you for blessing this day. We bring seed that will be sown into the earth, nourished by the richness of the soil, and water that will enable the seed to grow into fulness. We give you thanks for the charge you have given us to be stewards of the earth. We give you thanks for the invitation you have given us to work with you, the one God who created all that exists. **Amen.**

Blessing of Rogation Elements

Prayer for Seeds (Hold seeds aloft)

A We pray for the seed, a gift of God's creation.

C Creating God, you have given seed to the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Soil (Hold soil aloft)

A We pray for the soil, a gift of God's creation.

C Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens to your call of spring. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of this land. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Water/Rain (Hold water aloft)

A We pray for the rain which waters the earth, a gift of God's creation.

C Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that the crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful. Amen.

