

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ROGATION SUNDAY



The Sixth Sunday of Easter is sometimes also known as 'Rogation Sunday' (Latin *rogare* – to ask) when the Church prays especially for all who work in agriculture. In country areas, people traditionally process through the fields praying for God's blessing on the crops and livestock. Today the Church also anticipates the great festival (next Thursday) of our Lord's Ascension into heaven, having completed his saving work on earth.

The Gathering

THE GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

(A HYMN may be sung)

The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
(Ps. 145:13-16)

PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,
you call us to share in the care of creation
and to bring food and fruitfulness
from field and farm.

Hear our prayers on this Rogation Sunday
for all who make their living on the land,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(SONGS may be sung)

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PENITENCE

Hear the word of the prophet Isaiah: 'The earth dries up and withers ... the earth lies polluted under its inhabitants, for they have transgressed laws ... broken the everlasting Covenant.'
(Isa. 24:4-5)

Let us confess our sins against God, and
mankind's abuse of his Creation:

When we demand cheap food without
thought of the well-being of the growers, the
farm animals or the land itself ...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

When we fail to consider those who
produce our food in difficult conditions for
meagre rewards ...

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

When we forget to give thanks to God for
good food and clean water ...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or
RESPONSES may be used)*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... *(silent prayer)*

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of
darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of
your Son:
grant, that as by his death
he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us
he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

(After the reading)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM/SCRIPTURAL SONG or HYMN

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to N.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

(After the reading)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom
we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy
Spirit, who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(A HYMN may be sung)

The Prayers

ROGATION THANKSGIVING

Creator God,
we give thanks for the wonder of Creation:
for the immense and the minute,
for gentle beauty and fierce grandeur,
for all the variety of place and season,
for fruitfulness in Nature and plentiful
harvests.

We praise you.

For our heritage from generations past:
for landscape and garden,
for craft and skill,
for breed in livestock and variety in crops,
for wildlife untamed, for fertility renewed.

We praise you.

For those who act as stewards of God's
creation,
for gardeners and foresters,
for crop and livestock farmers,

We praise you.

INTERCESSIONS

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)

Father, we pray for farmers and fishermen,
vets and merchants,
their families and rural communities;

for seasonable weather and good markets;
for those who are struggling to survive;
for rural churches and support groups,
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For prosperity on farms, large and small;
for far-sightedness in government policies,
for care of the environment in farming
practice, and for fairness in world trade,
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For God's blessing on land and livestock,
and the ripening crops; for ourselves that we
may receive our food with grateful hearts.
Lord, hear all our prayers for the sake of
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(A HYMN may be sung)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

May the road rise to meet you;
may the wind be always at your back,
may the rain fall softly upon your fields;
may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Amen. *(Gaelic blessing)*

(THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said)

The Liturgy of the Word