

Rogationtide Holy Communion St Oswald's Church Lower Peover.



Welcome! Today we celebrate the ancient festival of Rogation (*Latin - rogare - to ask*).

Rogationtide asks God to bless both our crops and all those who work on our lands.

It is customary to include a procession from the church outside into Gods world where the faithful gather for prayer and a blessing.

(Weather permitting) We will be participating in such a procession as part of our worship today.

Being outside we take in the beauty around us and celebrate God's wonderful creation.

We also remind ourselves of how much we depend on the crops in the fields and on farm animals for our food, and renew our promises to God to further care for his creation too.

The Lay Minister gives the welcome and notices.

THE SERVICE

The Greeting: The Minister: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you *All: and also, with you.*

Song of Praise: (Said)

The Lay Minister: For the beauty of the earth.
For the beauty of the skies. For the love which
from our birth over and around us lies
***All: Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful
hymn of praise!***

Opening Prayer: Please sit or Kneel:

The Lay Minister: Loving God, on Rogation day,
we give thanks for those who produce our food:
for farmers, fishermen, factory, transport, and
shop workers. And we humbly ask that you
continue to pour out your blessing and care on
them all. ***All: Amen.***

Confession:

The Minister: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they do not toil nor spin, Consider the birds of the air; they do not sow or gather into barns, Yet our heavenly Father nourishes the fields and feeds them for our use.

Let us confess our selfishness in not sharing the earth's resources fairly.

Lord, have mercy. *All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

God created the world in all its beauty and put its care in our hands. Yet we have not cared for the world so confess our lack of care for the world he has given us.

Christ have mercy. *All:* **Christ, have mercy.**

God gave us a vision of the beauty of heaven in all his created order. We confess our failing to appreciate his goodness and his presence which is always around us.

Lord, have mercy. *All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

The Absolution

+ Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Collect for Rogation

The Lay Minister: Let us pray: Almighty God, whose will it is that the earth and the sea should bear fruit in due season: bless the labours of those who work on land and sea, grant us a good harvest and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord **Amen.**

The Gospel Reading (*Please Stand*)

The Minister: The Lord be with you!

All: **and also, with you!**

The Holy Gospel according to John 12:23-26

All: **Glory to you Lord Jesus!**

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

At the end: This is the Good news of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus!**

The Homily (*Please be seated*)

The Acclamation of Faith (*Please Stand*)

The Minister: Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

The Minister: Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

The Minister: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions (*Please sit or kneel*).

The Lay Minister: Let us give thanks to God for his goodness and ask God for his blessing.

Dear God, we thank you for all the gifts of food, foods of the land and of the sea. We thank you for all you give us, for all of nature and creation. Help us as your church to play our part in looking after your world.

For all good gifts *All: **We thank you, O God***

Dear God, we thank you that you show your care for the land by sending rain and sun to nourish the crops we need to sustain life. we pray for peoples and nations who do not have enough to eat at this time. Show us how we can share your gifts so that no-one is hungry.

For all good gifts *All: **We thank you, O God***

Dear God, thank you for the beauty of the world in which we live. We Pray for all those who need your healing and for those who have seen all the seasons of life and now rest in the peace of your nearer presence. Help us always to find reasons to be grateful and live this and every day in thankfulness and joy.

For all good gifts *All: **We thank you, God***
*All: **Father God, hear all these our prayers through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.***

The Peace of God is shared:

The Minister: By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The peace of the Lord be always with you. *All:* **and also with you.**

Preparation of the Altar and the Elements:

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

The Minister: 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. *All:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Minister: 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. *All:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Minister: Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

***All:* May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and for the good of his holy Church.**

The Minister: The Lord be with you.

***All:* And also, with you!**

The Minister: Lift up your hearts.

***All:* We lift them to the Lord!**

The Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***All:* It is right to give thanks and praise!**

The Eucharistic Prayer:

The Minister: 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:

All: 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!

The Minister: Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
+ Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins

+ Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen

Christ will come again!

The Minister: And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;

Rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup.

So that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Oswald, St Lawrence, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. *All: Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer:

The Minister: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
forever and ever Amen.**

The Minister breaks the consecrated bread.

The Minister: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Holy Communion

The Minister: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The President then offers the invitation to the congregation to come forward to receive Holy Communion or a Blessing.

The Minister: Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to the chancel steps to receive Communion or a Blessing using the central aisle. After communicating or receiving a Blessing please go back to your pew via the side Chapel. Thank You.

Post Communion Prayer:

All: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life.

We who drink his cup bring life to others.

We whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise your name through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister: Let us continue our prayer and praise outside in the glory of Gods wonderful creation.

**All: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord
Bless the Lord you heavens Bless the Lord you
angels of the Lord bless the Lord all you his
hosts; sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

From the Benedicite CW

Moving Outside:

*The Ministers and People move outside to
continue the service.*

*(Please bring Coats and bags with you as we
move outside and remember to honour all social
distancing guidelines)*

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE PROCESSION

The Lay Minister: "The Gospel is not only found in the Bible but is written in the trees and the flowers, in nature all around us." Martin Luther

The Lay Minister: Reading: Job 12. 7-10

"...ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being."

The Lay Minister: So let us praise God for the good news of God's love seen in His wonderful creation:

All Sing: We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand: he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain. All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

For Gods provision of water:

All: Bless the Lord sun and moon: bless the Lord you stars of heaven; bless the Lord all rain and dew: Bless the Lord you springs: bless the Lord you seas and rivers; bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. Benedicite CW 4

The Minister: Reading: John 4. 13 & 14

Jesus said: “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

Prayer: *The Minister:* Lord, we thank you for water which is so precious. Water to cleanse and revive us. We pray for your continued provision of the waters that bring us life and we pray for those who struggle to find water every day. We give thanks for the water of life that Jesus gives us. That inner spring that gives us the will to love and serve one another. **Amen**

All Sing: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

For our fields, meadows, and animals.

**All: Bless the Lord you mountains and hills;
bless the Lord all that grows in the ground.
Bless the Lord all birds of the air: bless the Lord
you beasts and cattle; sing his praise and exalt
him for ever.** From the Benedicite CW 5

The Lay Minister Reading: Deuteronomy 11. 13-15

If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the Lord your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul— then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

Prayer: *The Lay Minister*: Father God: Help us to love you with all our hearts and our souls in all the seasons of our lives bestowing your blessing upon land, waters, and all who work upon them.

Amen

All sing: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

For our gardens, and agricultural industry.

All: Praise be to you, Lord, for our beautiful planet mother Earth, a place of your created order who gives us her fruits in due season. All: Praise him and magnify him for ever!

The Lay Minister Reading: Genesis 2.8-9

Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Prayer: *The Lay Minister*: Lord of mercy, we are sorry that we forget that creation belongs to you, and our duty of care to it. Forgive us for the damage we have inflicted on your planet, may your Holy Spirit inspire us to change our ways and better cherish your whole creation to your praise and glory. **Amen**

All sing: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

For God's gifts here and in eternity.

**All: Bless the Lord you all priests of the Lord;
Bless the Lord all you servants of the Lord:
Bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in
heart; sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

The Minister (turning to the churchyard):

We remember all those who had gone before us: mindful that we benefit from the labours of our ancestors. May the Lord inspire us to live lives that enrich the lives of others, the next generation, and the whole world around us.

All: Amen.

Reading: *The Minister* Philippians 4. 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Bless the Lord for his creation and bless him for our role as stewards of his gifts. Sing his praise and exalt him for ever! Amen.

The Final Blessing:

The Minister: May who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon us and all things created, that we may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples;

+ And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you, remain with you, and all those we love this day and forever more.

All: Amen

All Sing: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love. Then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love..

The Dismissal:

The Lay Minister: Tend the Earth, Care for Gods good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thank be to God!

The Ministers and People depart.