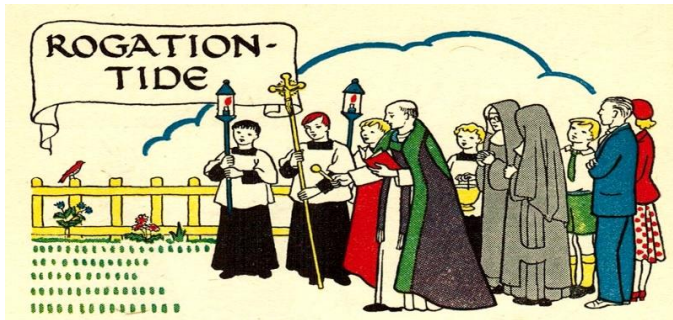


Rogationtide Morning Prayer
St Lawrence's Church Over Peover.



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 SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

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)

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!

Minister: For the beauty of the hour. Of the day and of the night. Hill and vale and tree and flower. Sun and moon and stars of light

All: Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise!

Minister: For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given. Graces human and divine, Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n.

All: Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise!

A Rogationtide Acclamation:

Minister: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, our own God, will bless us. Psalm 67.5,6

All: Almighty God the Lord of the Heavens is your name, you nourish us with abundant life and surround us with grace for this O Lord, we give you praise!

Opening Prayers: Please sit or Kneel:

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 pouring to pour out your blessing and care on them all. All: Amen.

We pray that you will bless all who have battled the weather to grow food and care for our animals, the fishermen who go out into stormy seas, the delivery drivers and for all the shop workers who have kept working despite the pandemic. May they know that they are valued and held in our prayers. We ask this In Jesus' Holy Name. **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 Gospel Reading (*Please Stand*)

Minister: The Lord be with you!

All: and also, with you!

A reading from 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 Acclamation of Faith

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*).

Let us give thanks to God and pray for our world and all the people who live in it.

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 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 different seasons, and 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.**

The Collect for Rogation

The 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; **All: Father God, hear all these our prayers through Jesus Christ your Son. 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: 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

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

*Moving Outside: (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 Minister: "The Gospel is not only found in the pages of the Bible but is written in the trees and the flowers, in nature all around us."

Martin Luther

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 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. From the Benedicite CW 4

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 **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.

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; bless the Lord all people
on earth: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

From the Benedicite CW 5

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 Minister:* Father God: Help us to love you with all our hearts and our souls in all the seasons of our lives. Grant us favourable weather, temperate rains and fruitful seasons, and bestow your blessing upon the. **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.

*For the Wild Earth that provides the balance
needed to sustain life.*

**All: Bless the Lord all birds of the air: bless the
Lord you beasts and cattle; Bless the Lord
scorching wind and bitter cold: sing his praise
and exalt him for ever!** From the Benedicite CW

Reading: Luke 12. 24-27

Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap,
they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet
God feeds them. Of how much more value are
you than the birds! And can any of you by
worrying add a single hour to your span of life?
If then you are not able to do so small a thing as
that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider
the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor
spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory
was not clothed like one of these.

Prayer: *The Minister:* Lord help us always to
trust in you for the things we need for life, here
on earth help us not to destroy but to care for
and protect your creation. **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, Allotments and Small Holdings:

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. Praise him and magnify him for ever! St Francis of Assisi

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 Minister:* Thank you, Lord, for our gardens and all places where things grow. We bless you for the planting, for the growing and for the harvest. **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.

For God's blessing on our agricultural industry.

All: Father God, we bless you for the agricultural industries, and all who labour: sing and praise his name forever!

Reading: Isaiah 28. 23 – 26

Listen, and hear my voice; Pay attention, and hear my speech. Do those who plough for sowing plough continually? Do they continually open and harrow their ground? When they have levelled its surface, do they not scatter dill, sow cumin, and plant wheat in rows and barley in its proper place, and spelt as the border? For they are well instructed; their God teaches them.

Prayer: *The 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. *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.

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 world around us. **All: Amen.**

Reading: 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.

St Francis Prayer:

Prayer: *The Minister:* Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy.

O Master, Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console; To be
understood, as to understand; To be loved, as
to love; For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal
Life. All: **Amen.**

**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! Bless the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Amen.**

The Final Blessing:

The Minister: May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon us his children, that we may use his gifts to God's glory and the welfare of all peoples; and may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and remain with us, 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 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 Minister and People depart.