

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter, Year B

Rogation Sunday

Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word Rogation has its roots in the Latin word that means to ask or petition, and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places the celebrations of Rogation Days were quite elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God's blessing.

Churches that have maintained the practice of celebrating Rogation Days no longer mark these days specifically before Ascension. Instead, Rogation Days are celebrated at times and places that meet local needs. With an increased awareness of the need for the stewardship of creation both within the church and within contemporary culture, the themes of thanksgiving for the land and petitions for a fruitful earth may be adapted around broader cultural celebrations of Earth Day (April 22).

Although Rogation Days are agricultural celebrations, they are not solely for rural congregations. These days underscore the dependence of all people, urban and rural, on the fruitfulness of the earth and human labor. The themes of Rogation Days may be highlighted in a special worship service or in prayers of intercession in the Sunday assembly during the spring.

Prayer of the Day

Merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Job 38:1-11, 16-18

A reading from Job.

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.
⁵Who determined its measurements — surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?
⁸"Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb? —
⁹when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,
¹¹and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?"
¹⁶"Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104: 1, 13-23

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul.
O LORD my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
¹³From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
¹⁵and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
¹⁶The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
¹⁷In them the birds build their nests;

the stork has its home in the fir trees.

¹⁸The high mountains are for the wild goats;

the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

¹⁹You have made the moon to mark the seasons;

the sun knows its time for setting.

²⁰You make darkness, and it is night,

when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

²¹The young lions roar for their prey,

seeking their food from God.

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

A reading from First Timothy.

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my

barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.