

Episcopal Community Services: ECS Sunday 2024

Rogation Celebrations: Planting Seeds of Gospel Justice

Planning for Rogation Sunday, May 5, 2024

Introduction: Planting Seeds of Justice

This collection of resources for your Episcopal Community Services Sunday/Rogation day celebration is intended to be a *full basket of harvested prayers* for your good use. In planning a Rogation Sunday worship experience for your church or home, please remember that what matters most are your own mindful prayers and being open to connecting to God's wondrous creation.

Simply being outside, taking a walk and being in prayer, might just be enough.

A more complex liturgy for the blessing of parish bounds, garden tools, seeds and plants and places where flowers, trees and food is growing adds a sense of abundance, but simply and truly *do what you can to celebrate the glory of God's creation and the grace of the season of Resurrection!*

Below are the collected and cited materials for planning a Rogation procession, for adding prayers to your Sunday services and for creating liturgies at home to pause on the 6th Sunday of Easter to give thanks for our created world, the wonder of the changing season and for the abundant harvests that sustain our labors for Gospel Justice in the name of the risen Christ.

Holding an Ingathering for ECS Sunday

You may choose to hold a special ingathering on ECS Sunday to benefit the growth and development of ECS for the coming years. Your support is an invaluable blessing to the labors we share in bringing a resounding word of Gospel Justice to a world parched and hungry for hope and life. Please make sure to not only invite your community to make a gift, but to connect your members to supporting our common, shared labors in the harvest of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior!

Rogation Processions

Rogation Procession (From the Book of Occasional Services, 2022)

The Rogation Days are traditionally observed on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. They may, however, be observed on other days, depending on local conditions and the convenience of the congregation.

Anciently, the observance consisted of an outdoor procession which

culminated in a special celebration of the Eucharist. In more recent centuries, the procession has frequently taken place on a Sunday afternoon, apart from the Eucharist.

If the Rogation Procession is held on a Sunday or Principal Feast, it should take place apart from or following the Proper Eucharist of the Day. Under these conditions the procession concludes with a suitable prayer and a blessing.

The congregation gathers at a convenient place and may sing a hymn. During the movement from place to place, to preserve the solemnity of the procession, it is desirable for the people to refrain from conversation and to join in hymns, litanies said or sung, bells, instrumental music, or silence. At the stations the Presider may cense the place.

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Presider Bountiful God of heaven and earth: By your gracious providence give and preserve the harvests of the land and sea for the good of all creatures, that those who receive good things from your hand may always give you thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymns, psalms, canticles, and anthems are sung during the procession.

The following are appropriate:

- *Canticle 1 or 12 (Benedicite)*
- *Psalm 103 (Refrain: "Bless the Lord, O my soul")*
- *Psalm 104 (Refrain: "Hallelujah")*

At suitable places the procession may halt for appropriate Bible readings and prayers.

In addition to the readings listed on page 930 of the Book of Common Prayer, any of the following passages are appropriate:

- *Genesis 8:13–23 Ezekiel 34:25–31*
- *Leviticus 26:1–13(14–20) James 4:7–11*
- *Deuteronomy 8:1–10(11–20) Matthew 6:25–34*
- *Hosea 2:18–23 John 12:23–26*

Suitable prayers include Prayers 1, 29, 34, 38, 40–44, and Thanksgivings 1, 8, 9 from the section “Prayers and Thanksgivings” in the Book of Common Prayer, as well as the following:

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon this (seed, livestock, plough, forest, _____) and grant that it may serve to your glory and the welfare of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following stational readings and collects may be used or adapted as appropriate.

Station: At a place of work

Reading Ecclesiasticus 38:27–32a

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work. Make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will, and bring all workers satisfaction in what they do and a just return for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a garden or park

Reading Genesis 1:11–12

Presider Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruitfulness of the earth that nourishes our life and the life of all creatures. Bless those who work in fields and gardens. Send them seasonable and temperate weather, and grant that the fruits of the earth may be shared justly with all having need of them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At agricultural land or a farmer’s market

Reading Genesis 8:21b–9:1 or Leviticus 19:9–10

Presider Let us pray.

Holy God, we thank you for the land and its soil, and all those who bring forth food and necessities of life from it. Send an abundant harvest to the farmers and ranchers of the world, and make all your people just, loving, and generous in their life together and mindful of the needs of all who are poor, after the example of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For scientists and explorers

Reading Genesis 1:1–5 or Ecclesiasticus 17:1–11

Presider Let us pray.

God of Mystery, you made the universe with its marvelous order and chaos, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures. We give you thanks for all who study the mysteries of creation and ask that their work may increase our curiosity, wonder, and joy, that we may come to know you more truly and serve you more humbly; in the name of Jesus Christ, your Wisdom and your Word. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a place where food is served

Reading Mark 6:35–44

Presider Let us pray.

Generous God, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every creature: We give you thanks for all who prepare and serve the food we eat. Bless them in their labor and bless all who benefit from their service; through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For the gift and care of water

Reading Isaiah 41:17–20

Presider Let us pray.

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water—the waters on the earth, and under the earth, the water above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's water, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us; through Jesus Christ, source of living water. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a memorial garden or cemetery

Reading Matthew 27:57–61

Presider Let us pray.

God of the living and of the dead, renew the face of the ground by your life-giving Spirit; grant that all who rest here may be renewed in the joy of your eternal presence, through Jesus Christ, who is resurrection and life. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For the air and all who work to keep it clean

Reading Ezekiel 37:9–10

Presider Let us pray.

Holy Spirit, breath of life: We give you thanks for the air and for all who work to keep it clean. Teach us to cherish the air we breathe; in your power we pray. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a place of government

Reading 1 Timothy 2:1–4

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray for all who serve and govern the people of this and every land. Send upon them the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice, that they may foster the well-being of all creation; for the sake of Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For a place of healing

Reading Matthew 8:14–16

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus healed many who were sick: We commend to your care all who suffer, and those who care for them. By your grace lend compassion and skill to health and veterinary workers here and everywhere, and bring healing and comfort to those in need, that all may know your power and goodness and rise up to serve you, in the strength of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For military workers

Reading Isaiah 2:2–4

Presider Let us pray.

God our strength and shield: Protect and defend all who offer their lives in military service for the sake of others. Beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, that all may dwell in harmony with one another and with all creation; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: For public safety workers

Reading Isaiah 21:6–8

Presider Let us pray.

God our rock and our refuge: Guard and bless all who work for the well-being and safety of our community. Grant courage, vigilance, and skill to those who rise up by night or by day at our urgent call, that they may always find your arm mighty to save; through Jesus Christ, who died that all may live. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At a place where trash, compost, or recycling is handled

Reading Luke 13:6–9

Presider Let us pray.

Renewing God: Bless all whose labor here supports the well-being of our community. Strengthen and encourage them in their service, and make us mindful of their contribution to the stewardship of the earth, that all may be ministers of your new creation; in the name of Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Station: At the door of the church building

Reading Acts 2:41–47 or Isaiah 56:6b–7

Presider Let us pray.

Holy God, you give your people a desire to know and to worship you: Bless all who gather here in your name, that they may find a welcome and lift their hearts and voices in praise of you, who makes us a new creation in Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.

A hymn, psalm, canticle, or silence for the procession follows.

Customarily, the Great Litany is begun as the procession enters the church. The following petitions may be inserted following the third petition on page 151 of the Book of Common Prayer:

That it may please thee to grant favorable weather,
temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food
and drink for all thy creatures,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless the lands and waters, and
all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things
needful for thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to look with favor upon all who care
for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of thy
creation may abound from age to age,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

At the conclusion of the Litany, after the Kyries, the Eucharist begins with the Salutation and one of the Proper Collects for Rogation Days. If the procession cannot take place out-of-doors, the service may begin with the Great Litany, which may be sung in procession in the church.

If the Liturgy does not begin with the Great Litany, it is suggested that Form V be used for the Prayers of the People, and that the following petitions be added after the eighth petition on page 390:

For favorable weather, temperate rains, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all your creatures, we pray to you, O Lord.

For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needful for your people, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age, we pray to you, O Lord.

If the Eucharist is not to follow, the service may end with one of the following collects, a passing of the Peace, and a blessing and dismissal. If a celebration of the Eucharist is to follow on a day other than Sunday, one of these collects may be used as a Collect of the Day, or as a Collect at the Prayers.

Collect of the Day

O God, from whom all good proceeds:
You established your covenant with all creation.
Guide us and all your people,
that we may walk upon the earth in righteousness and peace,
and honor you in our kinship with all your creatures;
through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
one God, to the ages of ages. Amen.

or this

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:
Open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works,

that, rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness;
for the sake of the One through whom all things were made,
Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

or this

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are
and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation.
In Jesus, you place the gospel in the center of this Sacred
Circle
through which all of creation is related.
You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate
life.
Give us your strength to live together with respect and
commitment as we grow in your Spirit,
for you are God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Source: A Gathering Prayer adapted from
Native American/Alaska Native and Native
Hawaiian Liturgies, prepared for the 76th General
Convention of the Episcopal Church,
Anaheim, California, July 2009*

or this

Collect 19: For Rogation Days, I, II, or III (The Book of
Common Prayer, pages 207–208, 258–259)

At the Eucharist

The Readings for the Eucharist may be those of the day if on a
Sunday, or a selection from the Propers for Rogation Days in The
Book of Common Prayer, page 930.

A Proper Preface for Rogation Days

Because in the mystery of Christ's Incarnation you have
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, calling your
people to be ministers of reconciliation and to proclaim the
Good News to all creation.

The following postcommunion prayer may be used.

Faithful God in the wonder of your wisdom and love you

fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Prayers and Reflections

(from the Arthur Rank Foundation)

A Litany for Rogation Day

Today the Church celebrates Rogation Day, when we ask God's blessing on crops of all kinds.

Almighty God, we the people of the seed come before you to absorb the energy of your love and creativity. We come patiently to be still in your presence. We come with hope to grow into a new life. We come to be brought to fullness and to be sown in your world. On this Rogation Day we ask your blessing on the growth of all things.

For the fields sown with corn that surround us

– loving energy of God nurture the seed

For the seeds that provide food

– loving energy of God nurture the seed

For the growth of livestock for food

– loving energy of God nurture the seed

For farmers that struggle to survive with less and less

nurture the seed. For those in the food supply industry finding ways to reduce air miles

– loving energy of God nurture the seed

For governments, which seek to allocate food and resources to starving peoples

– loving energy of God nurture the seed

For agricultural scientists who try to feed a hungry world

– loving energy of God nurture the seed

For aid agencies, especially remembering Christian Aid in their work to enable people to grow their way out of poverty

– loving energy of God nurture the seed

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer

A Yoruba poem from West Africa:

Enjoy the earth gently,
 enjoy the earth gently,
for if the earth is spoiled it cannot be repaired.
 Enjoy the earth gently.

God of the seed of life, you hold us gently in your hands. Teach us to be gentle with the earth. May we learn from our mistakes when we are abusive and rough. May we grow our vision for the health of the planet and its people.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

May we see your presence in everything that grows in the world of nature, communities, politics, industry and your church.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

As we share bread and wine as a sign that we are one humanity, let justice grow and hope reach for the light.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

In our cycle of prayer for the growth of this community, bless our search for beauty in art and music, in creativity in everything we do with our minds and bodies. We thank you that our basic needs are met and we can grow in these ways.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

In silence now, hold in love and prayer any needs in the world; bring them now to the energy of God's love.

God of life, we are your seed in your hands. Help us to be scattered as your hand releases us to provide for the growing of your kingdom.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers....

*A bowl of small smooth stones on a table with a bowl of water. As each person comes to communion they take a stone and drop it gently into the water of life as a symbol of their prayer for special needs.
(Germinate; The Arthur Rank Centre)*

Rogation Day Prayers

Prayers for Rogation Sunday, composed by the Rev. Maria Sanzo

Written for ECS Sunday May 5, 2024

For Seeds

Gracious God, you are the creator of all new life, and you call us to co-create with you. Bless these seeds that we shall plant to be seeds of hope for new life in this world. Infuse them with your holiness that as they spring forth from the earth, and will provide us with an assurance of your holy presence among us.

For Garden Tools

Holy One you call us into partnership with you to do the work of Jesus Christ in the world, and you provide us with all that we need to do your work. You offer instruments to lighten our load and as we accept this invitation from you. Bless these garden tools now to be the instruments of great possibilities for an abundant harvest. Bless the hands who will hold them to dig into earth rich with your abundant blessing, and together with you, may they bring forth new life.

For the blessing of Gardens and Flowers

Loving God, in gardens you revealed yourself to us. In Eden you offered humankind the abundance of your love. In Gethsemane, Jesus called upon you for solace. In Golgotha, Mary meets you in the resurrection. Now we ask you to bless this garden and these flowers in a place once again where we may find you living among us. May we sit in this place and feel your peace, and solace when we are troubled, your presence when we are alone, and your abundant love in every flower that blooms.

(from the Arthur Rank Foundation)

Petition

Ask and you will receive.

Seek and you will find.

Knock and the door will be opened to you.

Forgive us, Father, our hesitancy in asking.

You are always ready to give, without counting the cost.

Rogationtide is the time when we come together

to ask a favour of you -

that you will richly bless our land, our crops and our livestock.

“Be fruitful and multiply” you instructed your living creatures.

We are dependent on this law of nature.

Help us to be good stewards of your creation.
May we work humbly as co-creators with you
recognising both the possibilities and the dangers
posed by our growing knowledge and capability.
Keep us humble: down to earth.
Keep us aspiring: looking to new opportunities
which, in your providence, you open up for us.
Keep us following in the steps of Christ,
revelling in the natural world and
equally at home in the world of the spirit.
We ASK all this in his name and for his sake. AMEN

Prayer for Rogation – farm safety

Heavenly Father,
We bring before you all those whose lives and livelihoods revolve around land and season.
We pray for all who till the soil and tend the crops,
For all who cherish beast and fowl,
For all who harvest and prepare our food.
We ask that you will protect them from harm as they go about their daily duties.
Guard them from the dangers of fatigue and loneliness.
Share the burden of climate and financial worries.
Above all Father, bring them home safely at the end of each day.
We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen
Written by Sue Johns, Norfolk for free use and wide circulation

Prayer for wells, streams, rivers, rain and sunshine

O Lord our heavenly Father, who hast taught us not to be anxious for our daily life, replenish in due season our wells, waterways, rivers and reservoirs; and with the warmth of the sun, may the land yield its increase; this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer for farms and their work

Good Lord, before the seed is sown the land must be ploughed. We give thanks for the ingenuity of human invention that provides tools and machines for today. May seed and young plants be protected from blight and produce a bountiful harvest, and may people work honestly to keep the land in good heart. Amen.

Prayer for animals

O Lord, who hast given us animals to share life in our labours and leisure. Grant that we may treat with consideration all living creatures entrusted to our stewardship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for village life and homes

Merciful God, send down upon this village, our homes and farms, all things needful for our spiritual welfare, that we may dwell together in unity and love. Grant that we may reflect the image of the Holy Family, and that our homes be places of virtuous living, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for field and gardens

O God, who hast given to man the cultivation of the land, grant us such skill in tending fields and gardens that our crops and flowers may gladden our hearts by their usefulness and beauty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the church

O Lord Jesus Christ, this ancient church dedicated to worship should be “thy Father’s house”. Hallow with thy presence this place of prayer, and by the faithfulness of our gathering together in thy name, may we be living stones built into a spiritual temple acceptable to thee; for thy names’s sake. Amen.

Taken from a service by St Thomas a Becket's Church, Sutton under Brailes

Farm buildings and machinery

The farm buildings and the farmyard are the centre of the farmer’s work. Here they house their beasts and here the tools and machinery are kept. Lord, we are co-workers with you in the stewardship of your world, bless those who work here and on all the farms in this area that they may work in partnership with you to produce good food, healthy animals and to care for the environment. Lord open our eyes so that we may see afresh the world around us: Open our hearts so that we may care anew for what we see.

Trees

God bless our trees, our timber and our fruit trees, our plantations and our orchards. As trees take many years to mature, sending their roots deep into the good soil, so may he give us patience and contentment and trust in himself. Amen

Lord open our eyes so that we may see afresh the world around us: Open our hearts that we may care anew for what we see.

A Litany for Creation at Eastertide

Prayers of the People

Brethren, we who are many are one body in Christ. From the common work of people, God shapes the way of justice, peace and hope for a world broken by systems that reinforce poverty in heart, body, and mind.

Our call in Christ is to proclaim the Gospel with works of mercy and service. As we mark this day of celebrating our common life in the Diocese of New Jersey and lift up our common witness to justice and peace through Episcopal Community Services.

Let us pray to our God, saying, “Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless, *O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.*”

The leader may include intercessions appropriate to the section, or invite the congregation to include their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Your Church, O God, strives for hope and light in a world broken and overshadowed by need and want. Make us mindful of those around us whose needs are hidden, whose hearts are broken by stress and worry.

Silence

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,
O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world

You are the rock, the shield of our mothers and fathers. Deliverer and guide to those who wander, make of your Church a shelter and sanctuary for all who are homeless. Help us to see in the displaced the face of Christ, who with his parents fled their homeland to find shelter among strangers.

Silence

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,
O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world.

Redeemer, you are the lover of justice. Give us strength to reach out to the imprisoned and their families. As your apostles languished in prison, they sang songs of praise to your Holy Name. Help us to love those who have lost their freedom and help them to find their song to praise your Name.

Silence

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,
O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world

Provider of harvests and the One who provides, help us to plant, to nurture, to feed and to sustain all who are hungry. Sustain us as we labor to change systems that deprive the hungry of good food, of hope. Plant in us a bountiful harvest to sustain the hungry and the poor.

Silence

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,
O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world

Restorer of life and health, your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. Give us a full measure of that same spirit to heal the broken places in our local communities. Empower us as advocates of hope and reconciliation.

Silence

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world

Redeemer of the world, your apostle Peter proclaimed to the household of Cornelius that you show no partiality. We have failed again and again to transform the inequity of our human institutions into a realm more reflective of your will that we love one another as you have loved us. Give us strength to confront inequity and racism in our society and resolve to allow your gracious will to transform our own assumptions and prejudices regarding our neighbors.

Silence

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world

To the One who receives and blesses the stranger, the halt, the broken as brother or sister. Allow us a full portion of your grace that even as our own hearts are transformed by works of service, and care in community, that the world will heal under your touch and through our shared labors in the name of Jesus.

Silence

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world

In your name we pray today, O God; may the life of your resurrected child Jesus shine brightly in us and as we gather in your presence alongside the saints in light, teach us to remember and honor the dead who rest in your loving embrace. Sometimes, dear Lord, the gift of memory is all we have to offer up in honor of family and neighbors who we love but see no longer. As the beloved disciple took the Blessed Mother of our Lord into his home, help us to care for all who know loss or are lost in their grief.

Silence

Create in us hands to aid and hearts to bless,

O God, make us ready to do work in your name to serve the world

A Collect at the conclusion of the prayers of the people ECS Sunday:

Gracious and loving God, on this Sunday we bless your Holy Name and lift up the ministrations of Episcopal Community Services. What we have asked for on this day, grant with effect and advantages as we serve and by your grace heal the world in the name of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Oraciones del pueblo

Hermanos, nosotros, que somos muchos, somos un solo cuerpo en Cristo. A partir del trabajo común de las personas, Dios da forma al camino de la justicia, la paz y la esperanza para un mundo roto por sistemas que refuerzan la pobreza en el corazón, el cuerpo y la mente.

Nuestro llamado en Cristo es proclamar el Evangelio con obras de misericordia y servicio. Al conmemorar este día de celebrar nuestra vida común en la Diócesis de Nueva Jersey y elevar nuestro testimonio común de justicia y paz a través de los Servicios Comunitarios Episcopales.

Oremos a nuestro Dios, diciendo: "Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir, *oh Dios, haznos listos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.* "

El líder puede incluir intercesiones apropiadas para la sección, o invitar a la congregación a incluir sus propias oraciones, ya sea en silencio o en voz alta.

Tu Iglesia, oh Dios, se esfuerza por la esperanza y la luz en un mundo roto y ensombrecido por la necesidad y la necesidad. Haznos conscientes de aquellos que nos rodean cuyas necesidades están ocultas, cuyos corazones están rotos por el estrés y la preocupación.

Silencio

Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir,
O Dios, prepáranos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.

Tú eres la Roca, el escudo de nuestras madres y padres. Libertador y guía para aquellos que deambulan, haz de tu Iglesia un refugio y santuario para todos los que no tienen hogar. Ayúdanos a ver en los desplazados el rostro de Cristo, que con sus padres huyó de su patria para encontrar refugio entre los extranjeros.

Silencio

Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir,
O Dios, prepáranos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.

Redentor, eres el amante de la justicia. Danos fuerza para llegar a los encarcelados y sus familias. Mientras vuestros apóstoles languidecían en prisión, cantaban canciones de alabanza a vuestro Santo Nombre. Ayúdanos a amar a aquellos que han perdido su libertad y ayúdalos a encontrar su canción para alabar tu Nombre.

Silencio

Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir,
O Dios, prepáranos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.

Proveedor de cosechas y Aquel que provee, ayúdanos a plantar, nutrir, alimentar y sostener a todos los que tienen hambre. Sosténganos mientras trabajamos para cambiar los sistemas que privan a los

hambrientos de buena comida, de esperanza. Planta en nosotros una cosecha abundante para sostener a los hambrientos y a los pobres.

Silencio

Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir,
O Dios, prepáranos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.

Restaurador de la vida y de la salud, tu Hijo Jesús sanó a los enfermos y resucitó a los muertos. Danos una medida completa de ese mismo espíritu para sanar los lugares rotos en nuestras comunidades locales. Empoderarnos como defensores de la esperanza y la reconciliación.

Silencio

Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir,
O Dios, prepáranos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.

Redentor del mundo, vuestro apóstol Pedro proclamó a la casa de Cornelio que no mostráis parcialidad. Hemos fracasado una y otra vez en transformar la inequidad de nuestras instituciones humanas en un reino que refleje más tu voluntad de que nos amemos unos a otros como tú nos has amado. Danos fuerza para enfrentar la inequidad y el racismo en nuestra sociedad y resuelve permitir que tu voluntad amable transforme nuestras propias suposiciones y prejuicios con respecto a nuestros vecinos.

Silencio

Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir,
O Dios, prepáranos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.

A Aquel que recibe y bendice al extranjero, al detenido, al quebrantado como hermano o hermana. Permítenos una porción completa de tu gracia para que, así como nuestros propios corazones sean transformados por obras de servicio y cuidado en comunidad, el mundo sane bajo tu toque y a través de nuestras labores compartidas en el nombre de Jesús.

Silencio

Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir,
O Dios, prepáranos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.

En tu nombre oramos hoy, O Dios; que la vida de tu hijo Jesús resucitado brille intensamente en nosotros y mientras nos reunimos en tu presencia junto a los santos en la luz, enséñanos a recordar y honrar a los muertos que descansan en tu abrazo amoroso. A veces, querido Señor, el don de la memoria es todo lo que tenemos para ofrecer en honor a la familia y al prójimo que amamos pero que ya no vemos. Así como el discípulo amado llevó a la Santísima Madre de nuestro Señor a su hogar, ayúdanos a cuidar de todos los que conocen la pérdida o están perdidos en su dolor.

Silencio

Crean en nosotros manos para ayudar y corazones para bendecir,
O Dios, prepáranos para trabajar en tu nombre para servir al mundo.

Una colecta al final de las oraciones del pueblo ECS Sunday:

Dios misericordioso y amoroso, en este domingo bendecimos tu Santo Nombre y elevamos las ministraciones de los Servicios Comunitarios Episcopales. Lo que hemos pedido en este día, concédelo con efecto y ventajas mientras servimos y por tu gracia sana al mundo en el nombre de tu Hijo nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo. *Amén.*

Bible Study/Reflection Resources for ECS Sunday

Sunday, May 5, 2024

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Collect of the Day (Traditional)

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect of the Day (Contemporary)

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Reflections on the Collect:

On ECS Sunday we petition God for a decanting of a libation composed of a love towards God that will give us an awareness of, and ability to labor for "such good things as surpass our understanding." Moreover, that abundance is something we concede is more than we can possibly comprehend or form a coherent enough desire to ask for clearly. Understanding that our labor in God is possessed of more potential than we can anticipate, we in our prayers ask God to crack us open, like seed germinating in the soil, to bring forth new life and a renewed service to others in the name of Jesus

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Reflections on the First Reading:

What do we withhold from God? It is one thing to hold back formal sacraments as we seek to pull people into a deeper commitment to a practice of faith...is it another to hold back access to the Divine? What happens when Gospel Justice pulls us out of our own husks and shells and into a new and more open experience of the Divine in the world around us...and in an awareness that the Holy Spirit is accomplishing more than we could ever imagine?

Psalm: Psalm 98

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- ² With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- ³ The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- ⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- ⁶ Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- ⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- ⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- ⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Reflections on the Second Reading:

Recall Jesus' commandment to us? "Love one another as I have loved you." It is noted below. The first letter of John lifts up the love of God and its transforming grace in our lives and relationships. It also reminds us that if anything can be called a "success" in this life, it is that we are able to know love, offer love to others and receive it from God and our neighbor with open hearts. Loving is not a burden, but it is a weighty responsibility.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Reflections on the Gospel:

Are we truly willing to love? Loving in Christ means a simple challenge: Are we ready to become a people who practice a "Yes! And!" when we are challenged...or are we people who offer

instead a “No. But...” Jesus is sending us out into the world to plant, tend, harvest, and share the abundance of God’s radiant love for a world that has been overshadowed by doubt, cynicism and despair. Our remedy, by Christ’s commandment? Love one another. Simple and direct imperatives are sometimes hard to translate into swift and sustained action. However, if we are mindful of the Holy Spirit and remain humble, loving and open, then much Gospel Justice will be evident in our work and mutual witness.

Prayers of the People for the 6th Sunday of Easter/ECS Sunday

We pray for your faithful people and our leaders, that your love may be the foundation of their common lives and at the heart of their ministry.

Teach us to abide in your love.

We pray for your world filled with creatures and spectacular plant life and grandeur beyond words.

Teach us to care for it with love.

We pray for the peoples of the world and honor them as those you have made and cherish.

Teach us to reach out to them

with respect and love.

We pray for healing for those among us who are ailing, aching, or anxious: _____ .

Teach us to respond to their needs with love.

We pray for those who are at the end of their earthly lives, and for those who have recently entered eternal life, especially _____ .

Teach us to remember them with love.

Uphold us by the riches of your grace, loving God. May your lessons of love continue to inspire and guide us as we move through this world and into the next.

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