**Conclusion**

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

Prayers and Litany from *Times and Season: Services and Prayers for the Church of England.* Common Worship CHP 2006

**Rogationtide Reflection**

Rogationtide is one of the ancient agricultural festivals, when processions take place to bless the crops and walk around the parish boundaries including asking (Latin ‘rogare’ – to ask) God’s blessings on the fields, the crops and the parish, that all for the ’ fruits of the field’ will flourish in the coming months.

In the church calendar, there are three days midweek in the week beginning the 6th Sunday of Easter and just before Ascension, which are marked ‘Rogation’. Often that Sunday can be a good time to mark and celebrate ‘Rogationtide’.

Rogation takes place, then, in the springtime, when there is a renewing of the earth. It follows Easter, the season or resurrection. Renewal and resurrection are therefore also themes of this occasion.

Other themes and concerns will include firstly, the enjoyment of and access to the countryside, and conservation of species not directly connected with economic profit for the landowner of the land in which they flourish.

Secondly, ecological insight of the interrelatedness of the created order.

Thirdly, reflection upon humankind’s relationship to the natural order. What does it mean to have ‘dominion’ under God for the plants bearing seeds, the tress bearing fruit, the green plants; the cattle, the wild animals and reptile, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea (Genesis 1:27-31). Are we good rulers made in God’s image to nurture the rest of creation?

Lastly, Rogation Sunday often precedes Christian Aid Week, and this reminds us of the needs of the poor and the virtues of hope and justice.

Some places postpone celebrating until Trinity Sunday, which is often at the beginning of June, coinciding with World Environment Day (5th June).

It is a time to celebrate the fruits of our parish, whether it be rural, urban or something in-between, whatever those fruits might be, and to ask God’s blessing that we may all grow in the spirit of God to enable us to be true children of God. It is also a time to remember our farmers, at home or abroad who provide food for our table.



**Rogation Procession and Litany**

**The Rogationtide Procession**

This may be a procession within the church building or in the open air, whether

the traditional beating of the bounds or a specified procession in part of the parish. Prayers and readings may be used at suitable place

*The Litany in The Book of Common Prayer or the Common Worship Litany (Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England)*

**All or parts of the following litany may be said or sung**

**i**

**Let us pray.**

God the Father, Lord of creation,

**have mercy upon us.**

God the Son, through whom all things were made,

**have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the face of the earth,

**have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, creating and saving God,

**have mercy upon us.**

Remember, Lord, your mercy and loving-kindness towards us.

Bless this good earth, and make it fruitful.

Bless our labour, and give us all things needful for our daily lives.

Bless the homes of this parish and all who live within them.

Bless our common life and our care for our neighbour.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

**ii**

For all cities, towns and villages,

and for their well-being and prosperity,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the rural economy and for its regeneration,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who tend the countryside

and preserve its order and beauty,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For traditional rural skills and crafts

and for those who exercise them,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all farms, all who work them,

and for the whole farming industry,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make farming policy,

and for all with authority in government,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**iii**

For a blessing on our land we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For healthy crops and abundant harvests we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For the care and welfare of animals

and for the veterinary profession we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For the harvest of the soil

and for the fruits of the earth in their seasons we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For seasonable weather we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For protection from blight, pestilence and disease we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For those engaged in agricultural research we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For the service industries that support rural life we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For the ministry of your Church in rural areas we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For parts of the world where the harvests have failed we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For charities, aid agencies and overseas development we pray.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

**iv**

For our daily bread:

**we pray to you, O Lord.**

For all who work on the land to bring us our food in due season:

**we pray to you, O Lord.**

For all who fish the rivers, lakes and seas:

**we pray to you, O Lord.**

For all who process foods and prepare them for distribution and sale:

**we pray to you, O Lord.**

For all supermarkets and shops, and for all who work in them:

**we pray to you, O Lord.**

For those who work in food research:

**we pray to you, O Lord.**

For those who distribute food to those in need:

**we pray to you, O Lord.**

For the will to share your bounteous gifts:

**we pray to you, O Lord.**

**v**

For the world of work in all its diversity:

**hear us, good Lord.**

For the industry and workplaces of this parish/community:

**hear us, good Lord.**

For the right ordering of work in time of technological change:

**hear us, good Lord.**

For communities that have lost traditional industries,

and for their regeneration:

**hear us, good Lord**.

For all expanding industries and for the promise of new jobs:

**hear us, good Lord**.

For small businesses and co-operatives:

**hear us, good Lord.**

For local trade and commerce:

**hear us, good Lord.**

For all service industries that provide for our daily needs:

**hear us, good Lord.**

For the unemployed and for those living in poverty:

**hear us, good Lord.**

For school leavers and all who are seeking to enter employment: 5

**hear us, good Lord.**

For the retired and those unable to work:

**hear us, good Lord.**

For all who work as volunteers:

**hear us, good Lord.**

**vi**

Almighty and everlasting God,

you are always more ready to hear than we to pray

and to give more than either we desire or deserve:

pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,

forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things

which we are not worthy to ask

but through the merits and mediation

of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Short Passages of Scripture**