

ROGATION SUNDAY

We learn from Holy Scripture that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and caused the sun to shine and the rain to fall, the plants to grow and the earth to give forth its increase. God is the giver of life in the seed, in the soil, and in the sowers.

We affirm our baptismal creed where, in the First Article, we acknowledge that God "makes all creation help provide the comforts and necessities of life – sun, moon, and stars in the heavens, day and night, air, fire, water, the earth and all that it brings forth, birds and fish, beasts, grain and all kinds of produce." (Luther's Large Catechism)

We gather today to ask God's blessing on the seed that has been or will be planted, the soil that has been cultivated, and the farmers who labor to the service of God and for the good of all humanity.

Let all here present yield high praise to our Creator that He may crown the year with His goodness. For from God comes every good and perfect gift: the rich soil, the smell of fresh-turned earth, the keenness of the winter's frost, the rumble of the machine, the gleam of a cutting blade; the blistered hand, the sweat of the brow, the skill of those who plow; the beauty of a clean-cut furrow, the sweep of a well-plowed field – all reveal the mind of the Creator. Blessed be God in all his gifts, and holy in all his works.

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Rogation Sunday
Anywhere Lutheran Church
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Prelude
Greeting and Church Announcements
WE COME BEFORE GOD

***Confession and Absolution**

P: In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: God is Creator. In our secret thoughts and desires we have sinned against God. Even our best intentions are so feeble. Jesus Christ invites us to confess our sins.

(silence for our personal confessions)

P: Almighty God,

C: you have created what we humans need to sustain our earthly lives. We confess that we have neglected to care for your creation. We have carelessly used the soil, air, and water. We have forgotten how to love. We have forsaken the needs of future generations. Our concern is for the mediate satisfaction of our own greedy interests. Forgive us and set us on a new path pleasing to you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

P: Through Jesus Christ God knows us and accepts us as we are. God hears our prayers and forgives us all our sins. Walk forth renewed and refreshed on the pathway of life

*Opening Hymn "Songs of Praises"

*Words: Joanne Farke & Pastor Nancy
Tune: "Give Me Oil in My Lamp"*

1. Give me courage, give me strength to keep on farmin',
farmin', farmin'.
Give me pride in my work I pray.
Give me courage, give me strength to keep on ranchin',
ranchin' ranchin',
Keep me workin' 'til the break of day.

Refrain:

Lift your voices, lift your voices,
Lift your voices to the Lord of Lords.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
Praise to God forevermore.

2. Put a song in heart keep me singin', singin', singin',
Put a smile on my face I pray.
Put a song in my heart keep me singin', singin', singin',
Keep me singin' 'til the break of day.

3. Give me faith in my heart, keep it growin', growin',
growin',
Give me fire in my soul I pray.
Give me faith in my heart, keep it growin', growin',
growin',
Keep it growin' 'til the break of day.

Litany and Words of Dedication

P: Let us give thanks to God:

For the beauty of your world, the glory of starlit skies, the wonder of the changing seasons, the ever-new miracle of stirring life in field and forest.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For the privilege of sharing with you in the act of creating the good things of earth for your children, and for your nearness in all the processes of agricultural life.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For the Christ of the country road, who walked and served in the pleasant land of Galilee, and who today walks the country roads of the world in comradeship with all who till the soil.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For the widening horizons of rural life, the open doors in which entering we may serve the rural peoples of the world, and walk the byways with Christ.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For those who are in need this day, those who are sick, recovering, or battling diseases. Those who are in need of your tender care and keeping, (esp...). Touch their lives with your mercy.

C: Grant them healing and strength, O God.

P: That it may please you speedily to grant a just and lasting peace in all the earth. We pray this day for our military men and women (esp....). We pray that all peoples may again beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, that they may all live together in fellowship and tranquility in the lands you have given to them,

C: We beseech you to hear, us. O Lord.

P: To the re-creation of the beloved community bound

together by ties of love in every countryside, in which all people shall share with joy in sowing the seed and reaping the harvest of the Kingdom of God,

C: We dedicate our hands and minds, O God.

P: To a renewed appreciation of the Holy Earth and its gifts, and to a consecrated stewardship of all its resources, material and human.

C: We dedicate our hands and minds, O Lord.

P: To comradeship with the rural folk of all the world, and to serving them devotedly with all the gifts and graces you have bestowed on us.

C: We dedicate our lives, O God.

All: Accept our thanksgiving, hear our prayers and intercessions, graciously use the gifts of mind, body, and life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

First Reading Psalm 90:12-17

Oh! Teach us to live well!

Teach us to live wisely and well!

Come back, God – how long do we have to wait?—

and treat your servants with kindness for a change.

Surprise us with love at daybreak;

then we'll skip and dance all the day long.

Make up for the bad times with some good times;

we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.

Let your servants see what you're best at –

the ways you rule and bless your children,

And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us,

confirming the work that we do.

Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

Children's Message

*Hymn "Do Lord"

Do, Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember us!

Do, Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember us!

Do, Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember us!
Look down with eyes of love.

Bless us, as we gather here to seek your presence Lord.
We offer up our songs and prayers and hear your Holy Word.
May life abundant capture us, sharing what we've heard.
Bless us Lord this day.

Fields and pastures, meadows green, creations of your hand,
Corn and beans and wheat and hay, all products of your land.
Livestock, wildlife, creeping things, creatures, oh so grand.
Bless us Lord this day.

Stirrings from your Spirit, Lord, empower us to strive,
For justice, peace and goodness in our work and in our lives.
Through us may others come to know that Jesus is alive.
Bless us Lord this day.

*Gospel Luke 12:13-21

Someone out of the crowd said, "Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance."

He replied, "Mister, what makes you think it's any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?"

Speaking to the people, Jesus went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can not retire. Take it easy and have the time of you life!'

Just then God showed up and said, "Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods – who gets it?"

"That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

Sermon

WE RESPOND TO GOD

*Hymn "The Farm Song"

Words: Joanne Farke

Tune: "If I Were a Butterfly"

1. If I were a white Charolais, I'd thank you Lord, for giving me hay.
And if I were a Hereford cow, I thank you, Lord, for showing me how.
If I were a curly, haired sheep, I'd jiggle my tail, and I'd give you a bleet.
But.....I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.

Chorus:

For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.
And I just thank you, Father, for making me 'me'.

2. If I were a Case-I.H., I'd thank you Lord, for giving me fuel.
If I were a green John Deere, I'd be thankful for my power-shift gears.
And if I were an old, blue Ford, I'd finish my work and I'd take on more,
But.....I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.
3. If I were a flower bed, I'd thank you Lord, for my blooming stems,
And if I were a garden plot, it's tough to be thankful for the bugs and what-not.
And as I mow my lawn, I'll say, "It's a lot like farmin', in a city way,"
But.....I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.

Offering
*Offertory

GOD INVITES US TO HIS TABLE

*The Communion Liturgy:

P: Welcome to this meal, a foretaste of the feast to come.

C: We come to feast upon God's love and grace revealed in his Son, Jesus Christ.

P: Jesus gave his life for you, that you may have God's unconditional forgiveness.

C: We come to the feast and offer to God our praise and thanksgiving.

P: Jesus gave his life for you, that you may have life.

C: We come to the feast asking that God would refresh and renew us that we may live as He would have us live.

*The Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

Distribution

*The Blessing

*(Everyone is invited to go outside.
We will gather around the items
brought as signs of the season).*

***The Order of Blessing**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness for his wondrous creation.

We especially seek God's blessing at this time of planting and so we have brought with us signs of this season.

C: We dedicate our equipment, our seed, our time, and ourselves to the glory of God.

P: All your works praise you, O Lord,

C: and your faithful servants bless you.

P: Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, ruler of the universe.

You make the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen. You stretched out the

heavens like a curtain; you divided the day from the night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and for building up. Be with us now and bless the work of those who labor in the fields. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things and continue your blessings to us through the bounty of your creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let the people praise you, O God;

C: let all the peoples praise you.

P: The earth has brought forth her increase;

C: may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

P: May God give us his blessing,

C: and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of Him.

P: For the seed....Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, you give seed to the sower and bread for food. Nourish, protect, and bless the seed which people have sown and will sown in hope, so that by your good providence and bountiful giving it may bring forth fruit in due season and be gathered with thanksgiving to satisfy the needs of your people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: For the equipment....Gracious Lord, be with us now and bless us as we set apart farm equipment and implements, garden tools, and other tools of the trade to your glory and praise. Grant us faith and patience when there are breakdowns, grant us safety and alertness in all our work, and help us to remember that all we do, we do for you and for your gracious purposes. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: For the soil.....O Loving Lord, the eternal fountain and giver of life, we give thanks that we again behold on every side the awakening of nature in answer to your call to arise from winter's sleep; and as you cheer our spirits with freshening grass, budding trees, and unfolding plants, grant us thankful hearts to praise you for the promise of your renewed provision for our bodies and lives and an abiding trust in your unchanging love now and forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: For the rain and sunshine....Lord God, by your providence alone we receive the fruits of the earth. In your mercy send us such weather that the fields may bring forth abundantly to our sustenance and that at the time of harvest we may take of your gifts for our good and give thanks to you with gladness. Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

P: For the animals.....Creator God, you have given us fish in the sea, birds in the air, wild animals, domestic animals, livestock. All these you have entrusted to the care of humankind. Bless all animals. And Bless our livestock and those who are caretakers of these animals. We give thanks for the food and clothing that these animals will provide for the world.

C: Amen

WE GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

***The Benediction**

P: May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, bless the pastures and meadows, all growing grass and green fields. May the soil be wholesome and the crops good. May the weather be favorable and the workers of good heart. And may God who gives breath and life to the sower, multiply the seed sown and increase its fruits. May God be with us and among us and around us now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "How Great Thou Art"

- 1. O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

- 2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
- 3. And when I think that God, His son no sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin;
- 4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

denotes when to stand

The paragraphs on the front cover, portions of the order of blessing and the benediction are from The Stewardship of Creation, prepared by Philip H. Pfatteicher, Division for Congregational Life, ELCA.

Welcome everyone to our Rogation Sunday. Rogation comes from the Latin 'rogare' which means to beseech. And so, today we beseech God's blessing for the seed, for the soil, for those who labor in the fields and for all of God's creation...this includes you. May God bless and keep you during the coming year.

Additional Songs.....

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got the whole wide world in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He’s got the sun and the moon in His hands.
He’s got the seed and the soil in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got the tiny little baby in His hands,
He’s got the children and the youth in His hands,
He’s got singles and families in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands.

He’s got everybody here in His hands,,
He’s got everybody here in His hands.
He’s got everybody here in His hands.
He’s got the whole world in His hands.

“I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy”

I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart,
Down in my heart, down in my heart.
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.

Chorus:

And I’m so happy, so very happy,
I’ve got the love of Jesus in my heart.
And I’m so happy, so very happy,
I’ve got the love of Jesus in my heart.

I’ve got the faith that fades a farmer fears.....

I’ve got a blessed belief while browsing the beef.....
I’ve got a trust that turns my trials to triumph.....
I’ve got a hope that hustles my hands to help.....

Another confession.....

***Confession and Absolution**

P: In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God has given us the fertile soil and the living seed;
let us confess our failure to use them to his glory.
(silence for our personal confessions)

P: Heavenly Father,

C: even as we praise you, we know we fail to live as we should. We confess that we have set our greed above love for the good earth and its diverse and wonderful produce and wildlife; we have loved ourselves above our needy neighbors and above the generations to come after us; we have made our lives receptive to the values of our society but hard against the seed of your word. For the sake of your Son who was laid in the earth as a seed, forgive us and transform us. Let your seed of faith take root in our lives to make us gloriously like him, for we ask in his name. Amen.

P: God welcomes our praise and accepts our humble confession. The Holy Spirit empowers our desire to live more faithfully. Hear and believe, embrace and share, feel blessed and challenged by this good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

C: Amen.