

May 1, 2005 Rogation Day Procession, Planting, and Eucharist

Opening Psalm: (8:30 AM) Ps. 66:7-18

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of praise to be heard.
- 8 God holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what God has done for me.
- 15 I cried out with my mouth, *
and God's praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me *
and attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld steadfast love from me.

Opening Hymn (11:00 AM): “We are Marching in the Light of God” (#787 in WLP)
(sing one verse, we are planting in the light of God)

The symbols are present on an elements table or near by.

Air

The people are invited to participate in the symbol of Air. Three deep breaths can symbolize: The inbreathing of the life and energy of God, the outbreathing of all negativity.

Water

Celebrant:: Receive a blessing from this water (*Water is sprinkled*)
A sign of the Spirit poured out for us all.
The Spirit that touches us.
The Spirit that cleanses us.
The Spirit that revives us.

Bowls of water are prepared for each garden and stewards selected to carry the bowls to water the gardens in blessing.

Fire

Celebrant: Receive this fire (*A flame is lit*)
A sign of the Fire of the Spirit.

All; Fire that purifies, Fire that enlightens, Fire that never dies.
The candle flame remains on the elements table as a symbol of the Spirit's light.

Earth

A steward will process to the rocks at the base of the three crosses.

Steward: We offer these rocks as a sign of thanks for the Earth,
and for all the gifts of the Earth, on which we depend..

Referring to the crosses, the steward continues.

Steward: We behold these crosses, as reminders of Earth's suffering,
and a sign of God's love: love, stronger than death; love, that
calls us that we may also give of ourselves.

Blessing of the plants:

Plants are placed on the elements table for a blessing and then are planted in the designated garden. The food bearing plants are a symbol of the sustenance we get from our food and the hope we have for a world where no one goes hungry.

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon these plants and grant that they may serve to your glory and the welfare of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Planting:

Several stewards will take the plants and water move to the gardens to plant and to bless.

As the planting begins the following prayers are offered in litany form.

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.

Hymn: Canticle of the Sun – (#495 in Gather)

The Service continued with The Collect of the Day: