

Rogation Sunday Liturgy

DEARLY beloved, we learn from the Scriptures 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 her increase. He is the giver of life in the seed, in the soil, and in the sowers. Then God said, let us make man in our image and let him have dominion over everything upon the earth. We are now assembled to ask God's blessing on the seed that has been planted, the soil that has been cultivated, and the sowers that labor to the service of God and for the good of mankind.

FROM God comes every good and perfect gift;
From God comes every good and perfect gift.

The rich soil, the smell of the fresh-turned earth;
Come from God.

The keenness of the winter's frost, men's breath, and horses, steaming;
Come from God.

The clatter of the tractor, the gleam of a cutting edge;
Come from God.

The wheeling of the birds, men's shouts and laughter;
Come from God.

The seamed hand, the knotted arm, the sweat of the brow, the skill of the plowman;
Come from God.

The beauty of a clean-cut furrow, the sweep of a well-plowed field;
Come from God.

Blessed be God in all his gifts.

HEAR the words of our Lord as written in the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the third verse:BEHOLD, a sower went forth to sow his seed. As he was sowing some of the seed fell by the path and was trodden on, and the wild birds ate it up. And some of it fell upon the rock and when it sprang up, it withered, because it had no moisture. And some fell among

the thorns and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. And some fell on good soil and grew up and yielded up a hundredfold.

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

1 Each little flow'r that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. [Refrain]

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky; [Refrain]

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them, ev'ry one. [Refrain]

4 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. [Refrain]

Let us pray

GRANT, O Lord, to all who till the ground, the wisdom to understand thy laws and to cooperate with thy wise ordering of the world. Give to men of science the power to discover the secrets of nature. Give to our statesmen the will to make just laws. Give to farmers and laborers and industrialists the desire to work together in the spirit of justice and good will. And grant that the fruits of thy bountiful earth may not be hoarded by selfish men, but that all who work may share abundantly in the harvest of thy soil, according to thy will as revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Project Canterbury: The Cross and the Plow: A Service for Rogationtide in Procession. New York: The National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church, 1950.