

## A service of the Word for Rogationtide

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

*All* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**



### Hymn 470 I, the Lord of sea and sky

We need to re-connect with the natural world about us. Our modern way of living insulates us from the changing seasons, from heat and cold, and from where our food comes from. And we have our centrally heated homes and air-conditioned cars. Our worship ought to re-connect us with the natural world, God's creation. It is our failure to remember we are made from the dust of the earth, and to dust we will return, that has caused the crisis that humanity faces today. Creation is crying out because of the harm we have inflicted on her. So let us begin by giving thanks to God, our creator, and remember, as Martin Luther said "The Gospel is not only found in the pages of the Bible but is written in the trees and the flowers, in nature all around us."

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

Bless the Lord you heavens:

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord:

bless the Lord all you his hosts;

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

### Invitation to Confession

Let us ask God to have mercy on our tired land,  
and to prosper the work of our soiled hands.

Let us ask God to forgive our delusion of self-sufficiency  
so that we may praise him for his provision and goodness.

### Kyrie Confession

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
yet we take your generous gifts for granted.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
but we squander its rich resources.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,  
but we fail to share your bounty with all of your children.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*     **Amen.**

### **The Collect**

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.**

### **First reading**     Deuteronomy 8. 1-10

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

**Song**     Inspired by love and anger

## **Second Reading**    Romans 8. 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **An Affirmation from Psalm 8**

#### **Address**

#### **Intercessions**

#### **The Peace**

By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,  
let your requests be made known to God.  
And the peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

#### **Acclamation**

Let the peoples praise you, O God:  
**God be gracious to us and bless us.**  
Judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.  
**God be gracious to us and bless us.**  
Let the earth bring forth her increase:  
**God be gracious to us and bless us: and make his face to shine upon us.**

**Hymn 538**    O Jesus, I have promised

#### **Blessing**

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon us his children, that we may use his gifts to God's glory and the welfare of all peoples; and may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, and remain with you, now and always. **Amen**