



A Spring Liturgy of the Word

by Jan Bentham, OCSB

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love,

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence, Stewardship

Opening Song: *This is the Day* (Young People's Glory and Praise #69)

Opening Prayer:

Let us praise God who awakens the world in the glorious springtime. All the earth is alive with the wonders of God's creation. We gather in praise and thanksgiving during this Easter time. We thank you God for the new life that surrounds us. May we all be awakened by the wonder of creation and the joy of the resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen

Leader:

Today we ask the blessing of God on the seeds of the earth and the gardens in our community. God is the source of the sun, the rain and the soil. May we see the signs of God's love in the new life that surrounds us.

Reader: A Reading from the book of Genesis (1:11-13)

God said, "I command the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grain." And that's what happened. The earth produced all kinds of vegetation. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. Evening came and then morning—that was the third day.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Prayers for the Earth:

Leader: Let us call upon God our Creator.

For rain to water the earth, we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: For sunshine to warm the earth, we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For time to enjoy the gifts of nature around us. We pray;

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the happiness of knowing that you are present in our work and play. We pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

Loving God, you raised your Son Jesus from death to new life. Let your Spirit be ever upon us as we change the seasons. Help us to live as Jesus did and to be Christ alive in our world.

Amen

Reflection:

Students may process to the front with symbols of spring as the gathering sings.

A teacher may read a story such as 'The Great Kapok Tree' or the Parable of the Sower.

Have a question and answer dialogue with the children asking questions such as : 'How do you know when it's spring?' 'Can you think of examples of animals that seem as if they come alive again in the springtime?' (butterflies or hibernating animals, etc.)

You may choose not to have a reflection time.

Let us pray in the words our Saviour gave us: ***Our Father...***

Song for a Spring Procession of Symbols: *Signs of New Life* (Young People's Glory and Praise #57)

Closing Prayer:

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

You are the Creator of our universe. We thank you for all of your gifts and we ask you to help us to be kind to our earth and all of creation.

Teach us to recognize the wonders of creation and to help make the world a place of harmony and peace. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name.

Amen