

Interim Rector's Corner

An assortment of stuff this week
(some from memory and some from other sources)

Rogation Sunday

On Sunday, May 6 we will celebrate Rogation Sunday with prayers and petitions at both services and a Rogation Procession to St. Martin's vegetable garden following the 10:15 Holy Eucharist.

Traditionally, these are the three days before Ascension Day on which the litany is sung (or recited) in procession as an act of intercession. They originated in Vienne, France, in the fifth century when Bishop Mamertus introduced days of fasting and prayer to ward off a threatened disaster. In England they were associated with the blessing of the fields at planting. The vicar *pastor* "beat the bounds" *boundary* of the parish, processing around the fields reciting psalms and the litany. In the United States they have been associated with rural life and with agriculture and fishing. The Propers *Collects, Readings and Prefaces* in The Book of Common Prayer (pp. 207-208, 258-259, 930) have widened their scope to include commerce and industry and the stewardship of creation. The BCP also permits their celebration at other times to accommodate different regional growing seasons. The Book of Occasional Services contains material for a Rogation procession, including petitions to be added to the Great Litany and the prayers of the people. The term rogation is from the Latin word "rogatio" *asking*.

Feast of the Ascension

On Thursday, May 10 we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord with Holy Eucharist at 7:00 P.M.

The Feast of the Ascension is one of seven Principal Feasts of the Church (*go to pg. 15 in the Book of Common Prayer to see the other Principal Feasts*). Ascension Day is celebrated forty days after Easter, when Jesus ascended into heaven. It is narrated in Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

As he did so, according to the tradition of the Church, he filled all things (cf Collect below) reclaiming not just human nature, but the whole cosmos for relationship with his Father.

Although the place of the Ascension is not distinctly stated, it would appear from Acts that it was Mount Olivet. Since after the Ascension the disciples are described as returning to Jerusalem from the hill that is called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem.

The language used by the Evangelists to describe the Ascension must be interpreted according to usage. To say that he was taken up or that he ascended, does not necessarily imply that heaven is located directly above the earth; no more than the words "sits on the right hand of God" mean that this is his actual posture. In disappearing from their view "a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Collect for the Feast of the Ascension

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.