

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Opening Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Refrain: Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child.
Friends on earth and friends above, for al gentle thoughts and mild.(R)

For thyself, best gift divine! To our race so freely given.
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven! (R)

Leader:

This is the season of autumn and
the time of harvesting the produce of the land.
We take time together
to give thanks
to reflect on nature, the earth, the food we have,
the Eucharist and
ourselves as Brothers in Edmund Rice
in this wonderful universe we call home.
Let us take a moment to be aware of God's presence with us now!

Reader 1

Fall

*The colors of the rainbow fills one's vision
As we gaze upon Nature's art show.
The show of splendour heralds the coming of another time
And season.*

*This glory is but fleeting
As the ever changing shades
Blaze
And fade
In so short a time.
The handiwork
Is tugged
And pulled
By the winds
And the added weight
Of gentle rains,
Strewn upon the ground
Are colors
And shade
Of wonderful sunsets -
Quickly fading.
The leaves are diligently raked
And piled
To move
Or burn with the scent of nature
Wafting on the air.
A carpet of colour is left by some
To cover the lawn,
With time, the colours
Seem
To melt into the grass.
The wind tries to shift
The leaves
But is only successful
To some degree.
Suddenly,
The trees are bare
Revealing what has been hidden
For so long.
You look in wonder
-how long has that been there?
It is the chance to
Gaze upon
What is the essence of the tree
Not covered in all its armour of camouflage.
Nature gives us the chance*



*To rest awhile,
Until the warmth
Of another season.
Life will return,
To begin again
The marvel of this world.*

Ian Robertson cfc

Calling To Mind the Sins of Humanity

Leader:

We gather today to celebrate.
Yet before we celebrate the bounty of the earth,
let us recall the times we have used our potential to harm God's creation!

(Alternate verses)

1. Over the years, in many times and in many places,
we have hindered the earth from accomplishing its goal
of feeding the peoples of the world
because we have so often poisoned her
with our deadly waste, we now ask forgiveness.

All: Lord, have mercy! (sung)

2. We have, over the years,
fouled with toxins the oceans and waterways of the world
to such an extent that the earth groans
as it tries to purify itself, we now ask forgiveness.

All: Lord, have mercy! (sung)

3. To our God
who continues to create and renew
the face of the earth
despite our destructive habits of pollution,
we now ask forgiveness.

All: Lord, have mercy! (sung)

We Return Thanks

(Alternate sides)

We return thanks to our mother, the earth, who sustains us.
We return thanks to the rivers and streams that quench our thirst.



We return thanks to all herbs that furnish medicines for our diseases.
We return thanks to the corn and to her sisters the potatoes and beans which give us life.

We return thanks to the bushes and trees that provide us with fruits and berries.
We return thanks to the wind that, moving the air, has banished diseases.

We return thanks to the moon and stars that has given us their light
when the sun has gone.

We return thanks to the sun that has looked upon the earth with beneficent eye.
We return thanks for the Great Spirit to whom we are joined.

Reader:

Autumn

Feel, underfoot, the crunching leaves!
Cool sun-drenched days
Have silently arrived.
Admire around you the astonishing abundance
of Harvest Mother!
The farm fields ablaze in colour.
Vivid yellow zucchinis
Bright orange carrots
Round green cabbages
Luminous purple grapes
New potatoes by spade turned
Gleam gold nuggets in the dark loam.

Lovers, hand in hand, stalk the market stalls,
Strolling from color to color,
Intoxicated by nature's bounty.
Serenely smiles Mother Earth
in glorious beneficence!

Autumnal equinox's message too,
Time of year when heavens pause
To catch their breath!
Instant equilibrium

Night and day
Summer and winter
Reminding all again
Of that which we are a part.
Inevitable cycles of life!
Eternal rhythms
of death and renewal!

Savor the season's fullness!



Savor life's magnificent mysteries,
as days close in!
For soon around the bend
snow will descend
to cover the naked hills.

Give praise!

(Poem by Sean Whitty cfc)

Prayer of Eucharist and Sacred Action

(Different Readers for each section)

1. With hearts filled with gratitude
we thank you, God our Creator,
for gifting us with a common Brotherhood in Jesus.
We are grateful for all persons in our lives
who have chosen us to be their friends
for truly this is a rich and sacred trust.

All: For this blessing we are truly grateful!

2. In the sacrament of our Brotherhood,
we share our mutual journey back to you,
sharer of all love and life!
In sharing and partaking of these gifts,
may we find our happiness expanded
and our sorrows lightened.

All: For this sharing in Brotherhood we are indeed grateful!

3. We prayerfully rejoice that your Son, Jesus Christ,
has called each of us
from the position of servant
to the honor of being his friends.

All: For this blessing we are grateful!

4. Blessed are you, God of unity and peace,
for entering our lives.
Make us, we pray, worthy of such a gift
by being faithful but non-possessive,
by being loyal but loving
by being ever grateful for the gifts
we all share.

All: For this gift of your Presence we are grateful!

5. Blessed are you, God our Creator,
Who feeds and nourishes us on our journey through this life.
We give you glory and thanks for these
your earthly gifts
of bread, fruit and wine.
As our bodies are strengthened and refreshed by this food,
so may our spirits be renewed to glorify you in our lives
through Jesus Christ our Brother.

All:

Blessed are you, God our Creator,
For these gifts of bread, fruit and wine
Which we are about to receive in your name!
Enlighten us through this food and drink.

Teach us the way; the pattern,
Empower us with the Spirit of Jesus
so that we may
Love as he loved,
Heal as he healed,
Hunger and thirst for justice,
As he hungered and thirsted.

For it is through him and with him and in him,
that all glory and honor are yours, Eternal Creator,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and forever.
Amen.

Leader:

May the sharing of these earthly gifts
strengthen our bonds of brotherhood,
bring us closer to our God
who made us and sustains us in life.

All:

Creator God,
In a spirit of brotherhood, thanksgiving and joy,
we do this sacred action.

Sacred Action: Sharing of the Harvest Gifts

Leader:

On the large tray in the centre we have placed items of food which are symbolic of this feast of Thanksgiving. There are clumps of grapes, small goblets of wine, pieces of bread, pieces of apple and oranges, squares of cheese and pieces of pie.
In a moment I will pass around the tray and I invite you to take some item from the tray and consume it with a heart full of thanks and gratefulness for all you have received so far in your life.



Let this be our symbol to thanks at this time of year. (Tray is passed around)
(Music is played during the sacred action)

Concluding Rite

Leader:

As sons of the one Creator God
I now invite you to stand,
join hands in a sign of solidarity and brotherhood in Edmund
and together sing the Our Father.

Our Father ((sung)

Leader:

Let us continue our celebration as we have dinner.

May Jesus always in our hearts!

All: Forever

BLESSED EDMUND RICE, PRAY FOR US

