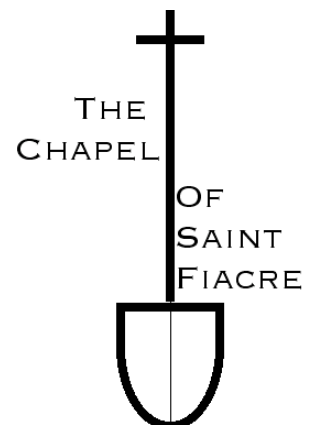




ROGATION PROCESSION AND BLESSING OF THE FIELDS



THE BLESSING OF THE FIELDS
The Saturday after The Fifth Sunday of Easter
26 April 2008
The Chapel of Saint Fiacre
Sebastopol, California

The Rogation Procession is a gift of the French to the universal Church. The Rogation Procession normally takes place either on 25 April (Saint Mark's Day), or on the Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday preceding The Ascension of Our Lord, or at other times according to local usage. It was a time of blessing the fields, and fasting. When the practice was adopted into the Roman Rite, the fasting obligation was dropped, since the processions were held during Easter. Today we pray the litanies, bless the fields, and participate in something really quite ancient

C – Celebrant
P – People

OPENING PRAYERS

The People gather at the Chapel

APOSTOLIC GREETING

C. Alleluia! The Lord is risen

P. The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia

BLESSING OF THE ICON:

C. Blessed is our God always, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages:

P. Amen.

**P. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now
and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

Amen.

C. O Lord our God, Who created us after your own Image and Likeness; Who redeems us from our former corruption of the ancient curse through Your human-befriending Christ, Who took upon himself the form of a servant and became human; Who having taken upon himself our likeness remade your Saints of the first dispensation, and through whom also we are refashioned in the Image of your pure blessedness; and we adore and glorify You as our Creator;

Wherefore we pray you, send forth your blessing upon this Icon, and with the sprinkling of hallowed water, bless and make holy this Icon to your glory. Through the grace and bounties and love of your Only-Begotten Son, with whom You are blessed together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-

STATION I: THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

READING: Deuteronomy 8:7-11, 17-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth 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 in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. "Take heed lest you forget the LORD your God, by not keeping his commandments and his ordinances and his statutes, which I command you this day: Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth; that he may confirm his covenant which he swore to your fathers, as at this day.

L. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people..

P. Thanks be to God!

The priest incenses the enclosure

C. Let us pray.

There is silence for a time, then:

C. O God, our first home was a garden of your own making. Bless + these plants that they may not only be food for our bodies, but a sign of our dependence on your wonderful creation, and your love for us.

P. Amen.

Bowls filled with seed, earth, and water are presented.

C. Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon this seed, this earth, and this water, and grant that they may serve to your glory and the welfare of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P. Amen.

The procession moves to the next station.

Tone 2



5. You showers and dew, ˆbless the Lord -*
praise him, and magnify ˆhim for ever.
6. You winds of God, ˆbless the Lord; *
praise him, and magnify ˆhim for ever.
7. You winter and summer, ˆbless the Lord -*
praise him, and magnify ˆhim for ever.

shame, and those who work with my help will not sin." All this is the book of the covenant of the Most High God, the law which Moses commanded us as an inheritance for the congregations of Jacob. It fills humankind with wisdom, like the Pishon, and like the Tigris at the time of the first fruits. It makes them full of understanding, like the Euphrates, and like the Jordan at harvest time. It makes instruction shine forth like light, like the Gihon at the time of vintage. Just as the first man did not know her perfectly, the last one has not fathomed her; for her thought is more abundant than the sea, and her counsel deeper than the great abyss. I went forth like a canal from a river and like a water channel into a garden. I said, "I will water my orchard and drench my garden plot"; and lo, my canal became a river, and my river became a sea. I will again make instruction shine forth like the dawn, and I will make it shine afar; I will again pour out teaching like prophecy, and leave it to all future generations. Observe that I have not labored for myself alone, but for all who seek instruction.

- L. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people..
- P. **Thanks be to God!**

The priest incenses the enclosure

- C. Let us pray.

There is silence for a time, then:

- C. O God, it is you who made the orchard a home. It is you who dappled a field with trees full of fruit so that Adam and Eve might live and delight in your presence. Bless + these fruit trees, and this field, that we might always be reminded of our first home, and the love you have for us. Protect these trees from disease and from the ravages of other hungry creatures that we may feast on your goodness.

- P. **Amen.**

The procession moves to the next station.

Tone 2



- 12. Let the earth, ˆbless the Lord;*
you mountains and hills, ˆbless the Lord;
- 13. All you green things that grow on the earth,
ˆbless the Lord -*
praise him, and magnify ˆhim for ever.
- 14. You wells and springs, ˆbless the Lord -*
You rivers and seas, ˆbless the Lord;
- 15. You whales and all who move in the waters,
ˆbless the Lord -*
praise him, and magnify ˆhim for ever.

19. You servants of the Lord, ʒbless the Lord -*
praise him, and magnify ʒhim for ever.
20. You spirits and souls of the righteous,
ʒbless the Lord;*
- you pure and humble of heart, ʒbless the Lord;
21. Let us bless the Father and the Son
and the ʒHoly Spirit -*
praise him, and magnify ʒhim for ever.

STATION V: THE WALKING GARDEN

READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'The LORD has saved his people, the remnant of Israel.' Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her who is in travail, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born. "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands afar off; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the maidens rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, says the LORD."

L. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people..

P. Thanks be to God!

The priest incenses the enclosure

C. Let us pray.

There is silence for a time, then:

C. O God, you walk with your people on this earth. In Jesus, we have a brother who shared life with us. In the Spirit, we have a friend who stands beside us in all things. Walk with us in this garden, and bless + it with your presence. May these waters remind us of our baptism and our kinship with you. In Jesus name we pray.

P. Amen.

The people are sprinkled with water in remembrance of their baptisms.

The procession moves to the next station.

CANTICLE: Magna et mirabilia

Tone 9



1. O Ruler of the universe, Lord God,*
great are the deeds that you have done,
surpassing human understanding.
2. Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,*
O King of all the nations,
O King of all the ages.
3. Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your name?*
- For you alone are the Holy One.
4. All nations will draw near
and bow down before you,*
because your just and holy works
have been revealed.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
And to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,*
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.

STATION VI: THE HOUSE AND THE HONORING OF AN ANNIVERSARY

READING: Saint John 15:9-12

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

L. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

P. Thanks be to God!

The priest incenses the house and the celebrants

C. Let us pray.

There is silence for a time, then:

C. God of love, you are always present with your abundant blessing in our homes. We are especially thankful this day for your grace active in the loves of David Cortez and Tom Tragardh as they celebrate their fortieth anniversary. Fill them with tenderness and patience, and give them love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world. Be with them today and until that day when we all celebrate the marriage feast that has no end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P. Amen.

The procession moves to the next station.

CANTICLE: Dignus est agnus

Tone II



Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and riches and wisdom*
and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

Blessing and honor and glory and power be
to him who sits upon the throne*
and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and marvelous are your works,
Lord God Almighty*
Just and true are your ways, O King of saints.

Who shall not fear you, O Lord,
and glorify your name?*

for you only are holy.

Praise our God all you God's servants*
And you that fear God both small and great.

Alleluia for the Lord God Omnipotent
is reigning*
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
And to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,*
world without end. Amen.

STATION VII: THE ROSE GARDEN

READING: Song of Solomon 2:1-17

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles, so is my love among maidens. As an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Sustain me with raisins, refresh me with apples; for I am sick with love. O that his left hand were under my head, and that his right hand embraced me! I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the hinds of the field, that you stir not up nor awaken love until it please. The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle, or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for lo, the winter is past,

the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is comely. Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom." My beloved is mine and I am his, he pastures his flock among the lilies. Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle, or a young stag upon rugged mountains.

L. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

P. Thanks be to God!

The priest incenses the enclosure

C. Let us pray.

There is silence for a time, then:

C. O God, you have given us eyes for beauty and the ability to sense the perfume of your creation. Bless + these roses and palms, for they are a sign of the love you have for us, and we for one another. May these roses be a sign of your love for us in your rose: Jesus Christ the Messiah, and May these palms be a sign of his entrance into our hearts.

P. Amen.

THE ROGATION MASS

As the gifts are brought forward the people say:

* Offertory Hymn:

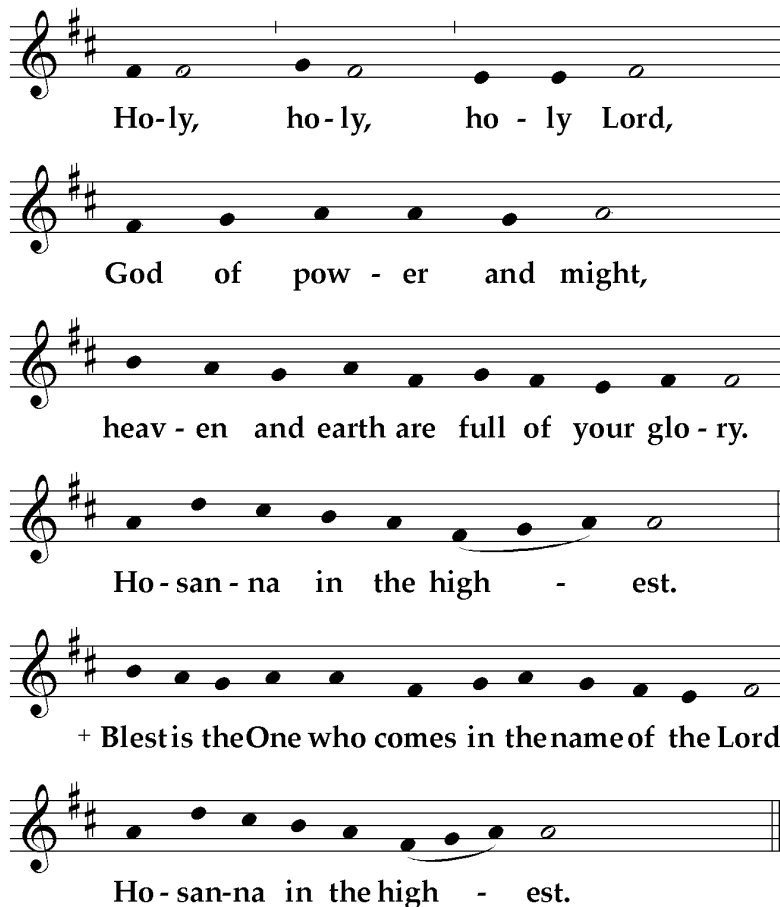
**W. Awake, north wind,
come, wind of the south!
Breathe over my garden,
to spread its sweet smell around.
Let my love come into this garden,
let my love taste its most exquisite fruits.**

**M. I come into my garden,
my sister, my brother, my promised one,
I pick my myrrh and balsam,
I eat my honey and my honeycomb,
I drink my wine and my milk.**

**P. Eat, friends, and drink,
drink deep, my dearest friends.**

The Song of Songs 4:16-5:1

SANCTUS



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord,
God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est.
+ Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san-na in the high-est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

- C. Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

- P. Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us + and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body + and Blood + of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

- P. Blessed are you now and forever. Amen.**

C. And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

- P. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

THE FRACTION

There is silence as the Bread is broken, then:

- C. Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
P. Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

C. The gifts of God for the People of God

Those who wish to receive come forward to the altar for the communion. When the communion is finished and the table cleared, this prayer is said.

PRAYER

- P. Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

There is silence for reflection

BENEDICTION:

P. Holy Eternal Majesty, Holy Incarnate Word, Holy Abiding Spirit, one God, + bless you now and forever.

C. **Amen!**

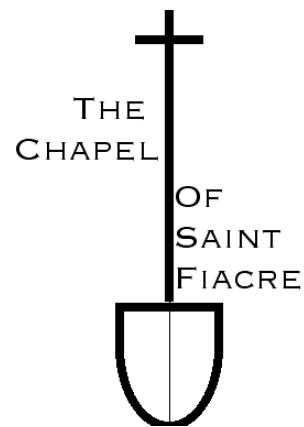
DISMISSAL

D. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God!**

THE ANTIDORON

The Antidoron is a Greek Orthodox custom that takes the bread that was not used in the Eucharist, and shares it with all who have come. Please share the bread with us before we leave for the rest of the festivities.



Saint Fiacre, one of the most venerated saints of medieval France, was born in Ireland, where he was probably christened Fiachra. He and a few followers arrived, c. 626, in the French diocese of Meaux, where he built a hermitage and where he remained until his death c. 670. It is said that the bishop, Saint Faro, promised Fiacre as much land as he could dig in a day.

He quickly acquired a reputation for sanctity and for miraculous healing powers. So often did he cure one ailment, an ulcerous condition, that it became known as Saint Fiacre's Disease. He was probably the first abbot to set up a hospice for Irish pilgrims, often as penniless as they were numerous, beside his monastery.

Fiacre was skilful in cultivating plants, many with medicinal properties, and he is patron saint of France's gardeners. He has also given his name to the horse-drawn, four-wheel fiacre cabs, which first appeared in seventeenth-century Paris outside the Hotel Saint-Fiacre.