



Spring: A Time of Hope and New Life

LEADER

Spring, the time when the Earth brings forth all its new life and hope renews itself. The days are longer, the air is warmer and everyone starts to spend more time outdoors enjoying the sun and each other. Daffodils and crocus break through the softening earth; the trees have new buds and a definite hue of green; and the robin sings with great joy. It is a time for all to shake off the “dust” of winter and renew the hope in our lives.

READER

“Earth’s Prodigality”*

By Sr. Mary Brigh Cassidy, OSF

Nothing that I have ever done
Could earn the privilege for me
Of witnessing anew each year
Green springing grass, fresh budding tree.
No dreams I e’er might dream could bring
This clear still blueness to the sky,
Or send that fluff of downy clouds
Sailing in lazy squadrons by.
Yet mine is the warm breath of spring
That perfumes every gentle breeze,
The song of lark, the glow of flower,
For Earth is prodigal in these.

Brief time for silent reflection.



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LEADER

Loving God, we pray for our world, so resourceful in its ability to renew itself, which allows us to renew ourselves, and also to help find ways to replenish what has been misused.

ALL

Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER

Loving God, your spirit is alive in the earth; we thank you for the generosity of your bounty and the beauty that surrounds us.

ALL

Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER

Loving God, you bring us to one another that we may hear and understand each other. Teach us to acknowledge and nurture the spirit that lives in each of us.

ALL

Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER

Spring is a time of new growth stirring in the heart of nature. When creation wakes and puts out feelers toward the sun and all of life is a glorious possibility. O God, keep us in the spirit of amazement. Keep us believing when we cannot see; keep us hoping while we wait; keep us looking for your presence.

ALL

Amen

*“Earth’s Prodigality” by Sr. Mary Brigh Cassidy, OSF, from her book *Gifts of Her Spirit*. Permission to use poem granted by Sr. Elaine Frank, general secretary, Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, Minn.