

Spring Ember Day 4 September



Spring Ember Day

Ember days are days of prayer and penance when the Church prays for the needs of all people, especially for the fruits of the earth and of human labour and gives public thanks to God for these gifts. In Australia, the first Fridays in March and September are the Autumn and Spring Ember days.

How can we apply the Ember day to our current situation?

On Ember days we seek God's blessings of good weather and a good harvest and asking His help in times of special need, such as the current pandemic. We should especially pray for all those affected by the pandemic, including the medical personnel who are ministering to the sick in exceedingly difficult circumstances.

Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
our refuge in every danger,
to whom we turn in our distress;
in faith we pray
look with compassion on the afflicted,
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders
and the courage to reach out to all in love,
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel

Mark 4:35-41 (AUS Lectionary, Vol. 1, p. 744)

Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples,
'Let us cross over to the other side.'

And leaving the crowd behind they took him,
just as he was, in the boat;
and there were other boats with him.

Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat
so that it was almost swamped.

But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep.

They woke him and said to him,

'Master, do you not care? We are going down!'

And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!'

And the wind dropped, and all was calm again.

Then he said to them, '

Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?'

They were filled with awe and said to one another,

'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

Antiphon

Come to me, all who labour and are burdened,
and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

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Hymn for the Ember Day in September

O God, you heal all our afflictions,
Our hurts, our sorrows and our fear.
We come to You in this time of need
that you wipe away every tear.

O God we come to you at this time,
where sickness pervades every day,
that you heal those who are afflicted,
and comfort kin along the way.

O God we pray for those in healthcare,
putting skills to good use each day
that you guide them in their decisions,
from your gaze may they never stray.

We ask you Lord that the dead may rest
in heaven for ever in peace,
that you comfort those who mourn their loss
and may your blessings never cease.

Text: (98.98) Chris deSilva and
Alessio Loiacono
Music: St Clement

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