

A life-giving spirit

The first man was from the earth
Took breath and rose like the dawn
But firmly planted in the dirt
They yield an earthly spawn

He knew too well his dying
Like the setting sun in dark retreat
His life would fade, death denying
Still, awakened, pride's conceit

In competition and defeat
No need to turn the other cheek
Or give the poor to eat
The strong is better than the weak

What credit is that to you?
Even sinners do the same
Your own gain, pursue
And call upon my holy name

Forgive and you will be forgiven
Condemn and you will be condemned
Give and you will be given
Live as I, your God, intend

Have borne the image of the earth
Reborn by Love's true merit
Then rise through heavenly birth
O son of man, a life-giving spirit

By Fr. Ralph O. Roberts
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
Cf. 1 Cor. 15: 45-49; Lk. 6: 27-38
7/16/15