

Rogation Days and Garden Blessings

What are Rogation Days and how can you celebrate them?

According to the Book of Common Prayer, Rogation Days are traditionally observed on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day. They may, however, be observed on other days, depending on local conditions and the convenience of the congregation.

Anciently, the observance consisted of an outdoor procession, which culminated in a special celebration of the Eucharist. In more recent centuries, the procession has frequently taken place on a Sunday afternoon, apart from the Eucharist.

If the Rogation Procession is held on a Sunday or Principal Feast, it should take place apart from or following the Proper Eucharist of the Day. Under these conditions, the procession concludes with a suitable prayer and a blessing.

The congregation gathers at a convenient place and may sing a hymn. During the movement from place to place, to preserve the solemnity of the procession, it is desirable for the people to refrain from conversation and to join in hymns, litanies said or sung, bells, instrumental music or silence. At the stations, the Presider may cense the place.

A Rogation Day service can be found in the *Episcopal Book of Occasional Services 2022*, starting on page 113.

A Rite for the Blessing of a Garden

Presider Blessed be the God of all creation:

People **For in your goodness you make all things new.**

Presider God be with you (*or the Lord be with you*).

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Gracious God, you open wide your hand and give of your goodness to all things living: Renew the face of the earth and increase the sustainable harvest of the world, that the land may bring forth enough for all, and your people may share justly and give honor to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen*.

The presider or other appointed leaders from the congregation may then lead the People in prayer, using one or more of the following collects, as appropriate.

Lover of all you have made: Protect and sustain the creatures of our local habitat. Increase their well-being, watch over them with love, and give us wisdom to honor our kinship with them; through Jesus Christ, the first-born of all creation. *Amen*.

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water. Bless the waters on the ground and under the ground, and the waters that fall from the sky, that this garden may flourish and bear good fruits; through Jesus Christ our savior. *Amen*.

God, who alone provides seed for the sower and bread for the eater, you have taught us to ask of you our daily bread: Bless the sowing of the seed this year, grant fertility to the soil, and strengthen the hands of the gardeners who till it, that through their labor your people may be nourished; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. *Amen*.

Holy God, you have blessed our plowing and preparing of the ground: Protect what we planted in your name, and grant that working late and early, we and others may enjoy a fruitful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Holy God, you have blessed our plowing and preparing of the ground: Protect what we plant and bring it to maturity, that we and others may enjoy a fruitful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Sustainer. *Amen*.

The Presider and People then say

Holy One: Bless and protect this garden and all who keep it. Strengthen and uphold them in their labor, that these plants may be good fruit and our care for the earth may witness to your love and justice; in the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. *Amen*.

The Deacon or Presider may dismiss the People with these words

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

This is from the Episcopal Book of Occasional Services 2022, pages 124-12. It is intended for public worship but may be used for private devotion as appropriate.

Other worship resources, including ways to support the work of Episcopal Relief & Development's climate change resilience programs, can be found at episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/priorities/climate-resilience

*Join us in prayer that can help guide you through times of disaster, uncertainty, liturgical seasons and beyond.
episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/worship-resources/let-us-pray/*