

Rogation Days

What are Rogation Days and how can you celebrate them?

Rogation Days are a time for Christians to reflect on their dependence on God's creation. We gather to seek God's guidance as stewards, for mercy and protection from calamities, and to give thanks for the blessings for the fruits of the earth, especially in relation to land and agriculture.

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.