

Prayers for Rogations Days

Rogation Days are days in the spring when people pray for the earth and their neighborhood and especially for a good harvest. The origin of the Rogation Days is probably pre-Christian planting offerings. For centuries it was the practice (and still is in some places) for priests to lead processions that walk all the way around the borders of a parish praying for good harvest and giving thanks for the bounty of the earth. The Rogation Days are the three days before Ascension Day.

The Rogation Days have always been a combination of thanksgiving for nature, the earth, the ecosystem, and prayers for good weather. Thanksgiving for the community in which we live and the interdependency that makes a community. Thanksgiving for the bounty of the earth and prayers for those who grow the food that we eat. In the past these things were very closely connected. They are a little more separated now. In our physical separation from each other these days we are all more aware of our interdependency and of those who grow and produce our food, bring it to us and make it available for us. This year Rogation Days are May 18, 19 & 20 (Monday thru Wednesday).

Here are three different prayers that you can use on each of the three Rogation Days. As you walk thru your neighborhood or in the park, or even enjoy the day in your yard, use these prayers to praise God and connect with God's creation.

Thank you to the Rev Vicki Zust, St Paul's Episcopal Church, Clarence NY, for providing this resource.

Prayers for Rogation Day 1 – Monday

Psalm 147 is the psalm appointed for the first Rogation Day. This version of the psalm and the closing prayer are adapted from the Book of Common Prayer. The plain text is a verse of the psalm, the italic is a suggestion for prayer.

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

Give thanks to God. Pick one thing to praise God for.

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; God gathers the exiles of Israel.

God was often bringing the people of Israel home. Give thanks for your home.

God heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.

We all have something that we are grieving right now.

Think about one thing that you wish were still happening and tell God that you are grieving.

God counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.

God holds all of creation.

Think about the most awesome thing in nature you have seen. Give thanks to God for that.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

Give thanks for all the teachers and mentors and anyone who has helped make you wise.

The Lord lifts up the lowly but casts the wicked to the ground.

God always stands on the side of the powerless. Pray for people who are powerless today.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God upon the harp.

Sing a little bit of your favorite hymn.

God covers the heaven with clouds and prepares rain for the earth.

Give thanks for the rain that helps flowers and food grow.

God makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve human beings.

Give thanks for grass to play in and for your favorite green vegetable.

God provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry.

Can you see any birds? Give thanks for the birds and for your favorite meat.

God is not impressed with the might of the horse; God has no pleasure in the strength of a human.

It is not our strength that makes God love us. Give thanks for something you don't do well.

But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear God, in those who await God's gracious favor.

God loves us because God loves us. Give thanks for God's love that we haven't earned.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion;

Think of one thing to praise God for.

For God has strengthened the bars of your gates; God has blessed your children within you.

Give thanks for living in a safe place. Give thanks for the children in your life.

God has established peace on your borders; God satisfies you with the finest wheat.

Give thanks for the people who grow wheat and mill flour and make bread and drive trucks that bring it to us.

God sends out commands to the earth and God's word runs very swiftly.

What is one thing you can remember that God commanded us to do?

God gives snow like wool; God scatters hoarfrost like ashes;

Give thanks for the snow that makes our part of the world so green.

God scatters hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against the cold?

Give thanks for the cold weather.

God sends forth the word and melts them. God blows with the wind, and the waters flow.

Give thanks for the coming of spring and the melting of the ice.

God declares God's word to Jacob, and statutes and judgements to Israel.

What are the laws of God?

God has not done so to any other nation; to them God has not revealed God's judgments.

Hallelujah!

Give thanks for God choosing to be in relationship with people,

Adam and Noah; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, all the way through to us today.

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers for Rogation Day 2 – Tuesday

Psalm 107, verses 1 - 9 is the psalm appointed for the second Rogation Day. This version of the psalm and the closing prayer are adapted from the Book of Common Prayer. The plain text is a verse of the psalm, the italic is a suggestion for prayer.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, God's mercy endures for ever.

Think of one thing to thank God for.

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

Thank God that death does not have the last word. That we have life even in the midst of death.

God gathered them out of the land
from the east and from the west from the north and from the south.

Thank God that everyone is loved by God and that we all share in the love of God.

Some wandered in desert wastes; they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

Pray for those who have no home and for those who feel lost.

They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits languished within them.

Pray for people who don't have enough to eat and for those who feel empty inside.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and God delivered them from their distress.

Pray for people who are grieving or in trouble.

God put their feet on a straight path to go to a city where they might dwell.

Can you think of a time that God showed you the way to go?

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children.

Give thanks to God for what God has done for you.

For God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Give thanks for all the times that you have had enough or more than enough.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers for Rogation Day 3 – Wednesday

Psalm 104, verses 1, 13-15 & 25-32 is the psalm appointed for the third Rogation Day. This version of the psalm and the closing prayer are adapted from the Book of Common Prayer. The plain text is a verse of the psalm, the italic is a suggestion for prayer.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Take a moment, look around, where do you see a reflection of the splendor of God?

You water the mountains from your dwelling on high;
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

We often take water for granted. Give thanks for water.

You make grass grow for flocks and herds and plants to serve human beings.

Give thanks for ranchers & farmers and everyone who grows & raises our food.

That they may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden our hearts.

Give thanks for bakers, butchers, winemakers, truckers, grocery store workers and everyone who gets food to us.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

Stop and listen, what do you hear? Give thanks for all the birds and animals and even the bugs.

Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number,
creatures both small and great.

Think about lakes and rivers and oceans. Give thanks for fish & seaweed & shells & sand.

There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it.

God made the whale (Leviathan) for fun! What have you made for fun!

All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

Give thanks for the changing of the seasons.

You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

Give thanks for all the good things you can think of.

You hide your face, and they are terrified;
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

Give thanks for the circle of life, birth and life and death.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

Give thanks for the circle of life, birth and life and death.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

God rejoices in all his works, including us. What is God rejoicing in about you?

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.