

# A Rogation Day Procession and Liturgy

*The 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. In ancient times, the observance consisted of an outdoor procession that culminated in a special celebration of the Eucharist. Prayers might be offered for the city, the neighborhood, all who labor, the fruitfulness of the land and waters, and for deliverance in time of war, disaster, or epidemic disease. The term from which this observance is drawn is the Latin rogare, meaning "to ask."*

*Stations suitable for the procession may be selected, adapted, and ordered according to local circumstances.*

## The Rogation Procession

*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 or sprinkle the place.*

*Suitable litanies include Psalm 103 with the refrain "Bless the Lord, O my soul"; Psalm 104 with the refrain "Hallelujah!"; the Venite (Psalm 95:1-7); Canticle D, A Song of the Wilderness (Isaiah 35:1-7, 10); and Canticle O, A Song of the Heavenly City (Revelation 21:22-26, 22:1-4). The Great Litany might be used. Several of these may be found in contemporary language in Enriching Our Worship 1. The Presider may assign lay people to read the prayers.*

*Presider* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
*People* Glory to God for ever and ever.

*Presider* Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve for the good of all creatures the harvests of the land and of the seas, that those who receive good things from your hand may always give you thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Deacon* Let us go forth in peace.  
*People* In the name of Christ. Amen.

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

## Station: At a place of work

*Reading* Romans 8:18-25 or Ecclesiasticus 38:27-32a

*Presider* Let us pray.  
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 bring all workers satisfaction in what they do and a just return for their

labor; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

### **Station: At a garden or park**

*Reading* Mark 4:26-32

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruitfulness of the earth that nourishes our life and the life of all your creatures. Bless those who work in fields and gardens. Send them seasonable and temperate weather, and grant that the fruits of the earth may be shared justly with all having need of them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

### **Station: At agricultural land or a farmer's market**

*Reading* 2 Corinthians 9:8-12 or John 4:35-38

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Holy God, we thank you for the land and its soil, and all those who bring forth food and necessities of life from it. Send an abundant harvest to the farmers and ranchers of the world, and make all your people just, loving, and generous in their life together and mindful of the needs of your poor, after the example of Jesus Christ, the true Bread. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

### **Station: For scientists, explorers, teachers, and learners**

*Reading* Canticle 12      A Song of Creation      *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*  
*The Book of Common Prayer, pages 88-90, Enriching Our Worship 1, page 25*

*The Benedicite may be said or sung.*

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with its marvelous order and chaos, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures. We give you thanks for all who increase knowledge of and wonder at your works. Grant that as we explore the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly and serve you more humbly; in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Savior. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

## Station: At a place of food service

*Reading* Mark 6:35-44

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every 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.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

## Station: For waters and those whose work depends on them

*Reading* Isaiah 41:17-20

*Presider* Let us pray.  
God, whose Spirit moved over the deep at its creation, and whose Son Jesus entered the waters of baptism and hallowed them for ever: We thank you for the gift of water—the waters on the surface of the earth, the waters beneath the ground, the water in our atmosphere, and the water in our bodies—and for all that dwells in the waters. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's waters, that they may richly sustain life for us and for those who will come after us; through Jesus Christ, who is the source of living water. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

## Station: At a memorial garden or cemetery

*Reading* Job 14:1-14 or Matthew 27:57-61, 28:1-8

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Blessed God, because of your faithful love we do not perish for ever, for your mercies never end but are new every morning. Bring all your beloved ones who have died into the joy of your eternal presence [especially\_\_\_\_\_]. Renew the face of the ground by your life-giving Spirit, and, for your tender mercy's sake, bring healing and hope to all that lives; through your child, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

## Station: For the air, winds, and all that flies

*Reading* Genesis 1:1-2, 14-23 or Ezekiel 37:9-10

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Creator God, who divided heaven from earth by a firmament so that living things might flourish by your word and holy breath:

We give thanks for the atmosphere and its cycles of renewal by plants and animals of the planet. Teach us to cherish the air we breathe as your gift to all life, worthy to be kept clean and healthful for the good of all. We pray in the name of Jesus, whom even the winds and seas obeyed. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

### **Station: For those working at a place of government**

*Reading* Psalm 67:1-5 or Isaiah 32:1-8

*Presider* Let us pray.  
God our governor, we pray for all those who labor to govern the people of this and every land. Send upon them the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice, and give them steadfast purpose to serve the commonweal of all your earth. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

### **Station: For a place of healing**

*Reading* Matthew 8:14-15

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Merciful God, whose Son Jesus healed many who were sick as a sign of your reign come near: We commend to your care all who suffer, and those who care for them. By your grace lend skill to health and veterinary workers here and everywhere, and bring comfort to those in need, that all may know your power and goodness and rise up to serve you, in the strength of your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

### **Station: For military workers**

*Reading* Psalm 59:1-3, 18-20

*Presider* Let us pray.  
God our strength and shield: Protect and defend all in military service who do not count the cost to themselves as they labor for others. Grant that peace may increase and warfare and violence come to an end, and let your people dwell in harmony with each other and with all creation; through our Savior Jesus Christ, who said, "My peace I leave with you," and by your Holy Spirit, in whom our hearts dwell in your peace. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

## Station: For public safety workers

*Reading* Isaiah 21:6-8 or Psalm 121

*Presider* Let us pray.  
God our rock and our refuge: Guard and bless all those who work to keep our community healthy and safe. Lend those who rise up by night or by day at our urgent call courage, vigilance, and skill, and grant that they may always find your arm mighty to save; through our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

## Station: At a place where trash, compost, or recycling is handled

*Reading* Luke 13:6-9

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Redeeming God: Bless this *place*, that it may be to us a sign of your will and power to renew your creation and of our calling to work in concert with you for the care of the earth. Strengthen us as ministers of your new creation in all places and at all times; by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, who working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

## Station: At a place of worship

*Reading* Luke 2:41-49 or Acts 2:41-47

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Holy God, you give your people a longing to seek after you and to know you, and an appreciation for the mysteries of creation. You stir up reverent curiosity among people of many faiths, and even in the minds of unbelievers. May your many names be blessed wherever people see you present, and may all come to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

*A hymn, litany, or silence for the procession follows.*

*The procession returns to the Church, where a celebration of the Holy Eucharist may follow.*

*If the Eucharist is not to follow, the service may end with one of the following collects, a passing of the Peace, and a blessing and dismissal.*

*If a celebration of the Eucharist is to follow on a day other than Sunday, one of these collects may be used as a Collect of the Day, or as a Collect at the Prayers.*

## Collect of the Day

O God from whom all good proceeds:  
You established your covenant with all creation,  
and called it to be just, free, and fruitful according to your will.

Guide all your people by your wisdom  
to walk upon the earth in righteousness and peace,  
and to honor you in our kinship with all your creatures;  
through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,  
one God, to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

*or this*

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:  
Open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works,  
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,  
we may learn to serve you with gladness;  
for the sake of the One through whom all things were made,  
Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

*or this*

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are  
and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation.  
In Jesus, you place the gospel in the center of this Sacred Circle  
through which all of creation is related.  
You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life.  
Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment  
as we grow in your Spirit, for you are God, now and forever. *Amen.*  
(source: A Gathering Prayer adapted from *Native American/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Liturgies*,  
Prepared for the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, July 2009, Anaheim, California)

*or this*

Collect 19: For Rogation Days (The Book of Common Prayer, *pages 258, 207*)

## At the Eucharist

*The Readings for the Eucharist may be those of the day if on a Sunday, or a selection from the Propers for Rogation Days in The Book of Common Prayer, page 930. Or the following Readings may be used.*

Ezekiel 34:25-31 or Deuteronomy 11:10-15  
Psalm 107:1-9  
1 Corinthians 3:10-14  
Matthew 6:19-24 or Mark 4:26-32

*The threefold blessing for the Easter Season in The Book of Occasional Services may be used.*

*A Proper Preface for Rogation Day*

Because in the mystery of Christ's incarnation you have gathered into one things  
earthly and heavenly, calling your people to be ministers of his reconciliation and  
to go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation.

## Prayers for Rogation Day: A Rite for the Blessing of a Garden and All Who Labor

*Presider* Blessed be the God of all creation:  
*People* For in your goodness you make all things new.

*Presider* 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 harvests 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 and watch over them with love, and give us wisdom to honor our kinship with them; through Jesus Christ, who has made of one blood those who are near and those who are far. *Amen.*

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: Bless the waters on the ground and under the ground, the seas, and the mists that provide moisture for all growing things. We thank you for the gift of water; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Lord God, you alone provide seed for the sower and bread for the eater, and have taught us to ask our daily bread from you: Bless the sowing of the seed this year, strengthen the hands of the garden workers, and grant fertility to the soil that receives the seed. Accept the labors of your servants for the nourishment and well-being of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

God of all, we pray for all the workers on the earth: for those who work in mill or mine; for those by whose labor we are clothed and fed; for those who work in the depths of the earth; for those who trade in mall or market; and for those who go down to the sea in ships and ply their trade in deep waters and along the coasts. May all our work be service, and all our goods be holy to you; and may we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Presider then says*

Blessed One:  
We ask you to hallow this garden, this compost, and these seeds,  
and ask that wherever it is spread and they are planted,  
you will add your blessing and protection.  
Support and make fruitful what we grow;  
strengthen and uphold all those who work to tend your creation;

nourish in mind, body, and soul those who are fed by this crop;  
that our care for your earth may give witness to your love and justice;  
in the name of the Creator, Word, and Spirit. *Amen.*

*The Deacon or Presider may dismiss the People with these words*

*Deacon*            Let us bless the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.