

# Rogation Sunday at Grace Cathedral

*From Steve Burk*

## On the front of the Sunday bulletin:

Rogation comes from the Latin “rogare,” which means to beseech or to ask. And so, today we ask God’s blessing for the seed, for the soil, for those who labor in the fields (even in the smallest of gardens), for the waters and its produce, and for all of God’s creation . . . This includes you!

In long ago days, when people lived in a much more agriculturally centered society, Rogation Sunday—the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter—was an important day for church attendance. Worshippers then would “perambulate.” That is, they gathered around the church building and then went from field to field throughout the parish saying prayers for the earth, the seed, the harvest and the harvesters.

**Our service today will include a special litany and a “Blessing over the soil.” Be sure to take some soil home to place or sprinkle in your garden or planter.**



## Often an organ prelude of choice for Rogation:

**PRELUDE:** “By Verdant Pastures” No. 918

Eric H. Thiman (1900-1975)

## At the Prayers of the People:

### **ROGATION DAY LITANY**

Almighty God, you have created what we need to sustain our earthly lives. May we be faithful in our stewardship of the soil, the sky, the water and the air, and of all things that live in your creation.

**Hear us, Lord.**

O God, the Creator, you have ordered a time for planting and for harvesting, for rest and growth and work; for sun and rain, for warmth and for cold. May we respect and celebrate all times and seasons as a part of your creation and the cycle of our lives. **Help us, Lord.**

Give us favorable weather for planting and growing and harvest. Bless the soil of the earth and the waters of streams and lakes and seas. And bless the harvests of all farmers and fishermen. **Bless us, Lord.**

We pray for the homeless, the hungry and the helpless, that we may be always willing to share with others and be mindful and responsive to their needs and wants. **Touch us, Lord.**

We pray for all who are sick in body, mind and spirit. For those hospitalized or homebound, for the victims of recent tornados, and for anyone carrying heavy burdens. **Heal us, Lord.**

For those who have died and have passed on to us the care of the beautiful earth. We thank you for their example and for your love that blesses us with eternal life. **Keep us, Lord.**

For your Church as the community of faith and for those who serve you faithfully, and for the world in which we serve, we pray your grace and Spirit upon us. **Empower us, Lord.**

*The Celebrant says a blessing over the soil.*

- Using a special insert placed in our Baptismal Font, the Font is filled with potting soil. Those in attendance are encouraged to scoop up a bit of blessed soil at the end of the service and take it home to be spread around their garden/flowers.
- Even during the Pandemic, we provided bags of blessed soil for any parishioner that wanted it by having a large basket placed at the entrance of the cathedral for several days leading up to Rogation Sunday. People were encouraged to just drop by and pick up their bag (and one for a friend!). Along with the bag of soil we attached a printed copy of the Rogation Litany.

### **Concluding Hymn:**

**PROCESSION HYMN 424:** “For The Fruit Of All Creation” *Tune: East Acklam*

### **Often an organ postlude:**

**POSTLUDE:** “Nun dunket alle Gott” *Now Thank We All Our God*, Op. 65      Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1888-1933)

### **From our Children’s Ministry Director:**

Hi Steve-

We have done several things on Rogation Sunday, from banging pots & pans around the lawn/gardens behind All Saints Hall (which was actually really super fun), to planting seeds in peat pots to planting flowers in flower pots that we had decorated the Sunday before. We usually include a blessing of the soil, prayers of thanksgiving for farmers, etc. I try to keep things like this pretty simple :)

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### **Resource Material:**

- The Book of Occasional Services 2018
  - o Rogation Procession
  - o Prayers for Rogation Days: A Rite for the Blessing of a Garden
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Resource
  - o [What Are "Rogation Days \(elca.org\)](http://elca.org)
- Let all creation praise
  - o [Rogation Blessing - Let All Creation Praise](#)
- Anglican Compass
  - o [Rogation Days: A Rookie Anglican Guide - Anglican Compass](#)