



Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week leading up to Ascension Day is known on the liturgical calendar as Rogation Days or Rogationtide.

Prayers are offered to ask God's blessing on the fields, gardens, orchards, seeds, etc. to be used in food production for the year.

Rogation Day Processions trace their roots to the church of Fifth Century France when special prayers were offered just before the Feast of the Ascension because of earthquake and poor harvests. The early Roman church celebrated Rogation Days with a Christian procession around the fields on the Feast of St. Mark (April 25) to suppress the ancient pagan roman celebrations honoring the god "Mildew" and the goddess "Rust".

The "Beating of the Bounds" began in medieval England. Written maps were rare and each year a procession marked the parish boundaries, which were beaten with willow rods. The Rogation Procession moves from a recognition of the sacred earth and Christian roots, to hope for fruits of the earth and fruits of the Spirits.

### ***Litany for Rogation Days***

For favorable weather, temperate rains and fruitful seasons,  
and that there may be food and drink for all your creatures,  
let us pray to our God.

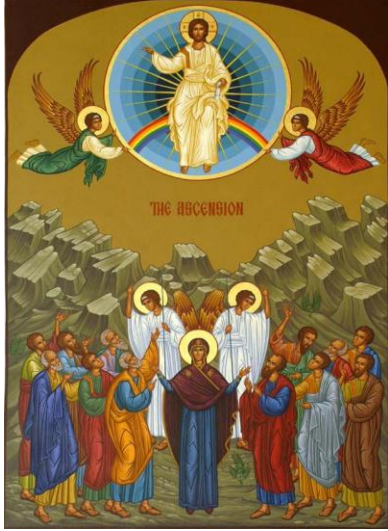
***God hear our prayer.***

For your blessing upon the lands and waters,  
and all who work upon them to bring forth food  
and all things needful for your people,  
let us pray to our God.

***God hear our prayer.***

For all who care for the earth, the water and the air,  
that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age,  
let us pray to our God.

***God hear our prayer.***



The Ascension of Jesus marks the end of the Season of Easter, which begins a liminal time. Liminal time of waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus leaves us with the words "you will be my witnesses" and "I am with you always". The end and the beginning.

One of the lessons I am left with this Easter Season is Resurrection versus Resuscitation. The message the disciples received as Jesus had ascended goes something like this: "People of Galilee, why do you keep looking up into heaven. Jesus will come back the way you saw him leave." The story continues with

those who were present, who go and pray. What did those witnessing the Ascension pray for? Scripture does not tell us much, perhaps praying to make sense of Resurrection versus Resuscitation.

Jesus is passing the baton to us. Are we in a place to take the baton and move forward -Resurrection, or are we in a place to let Jesus continue to hold on to the baton-Resuscitation? - something I think we are still trying to figure out today.