



Celebrated on August 1, Lughnasadh (*or lughnasa*) marks the beginning of the harvest season and farewell to the summer season, held at the midway point between the Summer Solstice and the Autumn Equinox. The fields turn from green to golden yellow-brown and the wheat is ready for harvesting. The first grains were offered to the local church in the form of a baked loaf of bread. The loaf was blessed and then broken into four pieces, with one piece placed in each corner of the home for good fortune and to protect the stored, harvested grain. Lughnasadh is a time to honor and celebrate abundance: the full flowering of summer brings us food and other blessings as the Celtic wheel moves ever closer to the harvest's full fruition.

We invite you to create a sacred space to celebrate the Celtic Festival of Lughnasadh. You might include a candle, bowl of water, flowers and some of the first fruits of this season.

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7-8: "Your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing... You shall eat your fill and bless your God for the good land that has been given to you."

We celebrate the gathering in of what has been planted earlier in the year – in our Earth as well as within ourselves. As that shift begins, **what abundance or ripeness in your life are you gathering as we celebrate this ancient Celtic feast?**



Let us thank God for the abundance in our lives.

For the ripeness of Earth at this time...
For talents that have come to fulfillment...
For plans that have come to completeness...
For love that has grown in me, in our world...
For growing awareness of living in a responsible and gentle way with Earth...
For all who share their abundance....

Let us ask God for the needs of our world

That all who hunger will be fed...

That we live simply so all may live...
That all live in greater harmony with creation and one another...
That peace prevails...



Blessing

May peace, abundance and the blessings and joys of this season be with the whole community of life.
Amen.

Using the water in your prayer space, bless yourself and then water some area of your garden or house plants.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate all eight Celtic seasons as part of Mercy by the Sea's Celtic Prayer Circle. See <https://www.mercybythesea.org/programs-and-retreats/celtic-prayer-circle>