

Thanksgiving in August??!

Lammas Day celebrates the first weeks of harvest

We usually think of "the harvest" in terms of autumnal apples and pumpkins, but in Celtic Christianity Lammas (from "Loaf-mass") celebrated the first harvesting of cereal crops at the very beginning of August (and "cereal," by the way, comes from Ceres, the Roman name for the goddess of grain). It is similar to the traditional festival known as *Lughnasadh*.

Corn, wheat, oats or rye were cut and used to bake a loaf that was presented at church on the first Sunday in August and used during the Eucharist (the sharing of bread and wine at Communion). People travelled from miles around to go to Lammas fairs that lasted for days or weeks, and featured entertainers, food and drink, dancing, and many other elements of the summer fairs we enjoy today.

In many cultures and religions, the harvesting of grain is used as a metaphor for death and resurrection. After August comes the gradual turning toward the darker nights of autumn and the celebration of All Hallow's Eve, All Saints and All Souls Day, when we remember those who have gone before us.





Make a Lammastide loaf!

You can use your favorite bread recipe and fashion it into a special shape or braid it, or you might check out some of these [online recipes](#) that celebrate the tradition of Lammastide.

A Lammastide blessing

We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed through our lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always,
Amen.

(from [Faith and Worship, Praying through the Celtic Year](#))