

# WHISPERING LAKE GROVE

ADF



EOSTRE

MARCH 18, 2012

## PREPARATION

---

### Honoring Our Grove Patron (Jim)

Son of the Sea calm the waves that threaten to upset our lives;  
Great Navigator, steer us clear of the obstacles that await us;  
Lord of the Mists, Trickster King, bring magic and play to our work;  
From the lands which lie between the sacred and the profane,  
We invite you to be with us as we gather for this common purpose.  
We ask your guidance, your wisdom and your blessings.

*An offering of whiskey is given.*

Manannan mac Lir, accept our offering!

**All:** Manannan, accept our offering!

### Initiating the Ritual (Grollwynn)

Good folk, let us now close our eyes, taking a few deep cleansing breaths;  
in through your nose and out your mouth... in and out... in and out.  
*(PAUSE)* As you breathe, focus on the worries, troubles and woes of the  
mundane world. Concentrate on all that is negative and impedes your own  
personal growth. Feel those elements within you as if they were a physical  
presence deep within you.

In your mind's eye, see them as a grey formless cloud at the center of your  
being. *(PAUSE 4 COUNT)*

Gently grasping your egg, symbol of fertility and change, once more take a  
deep breath in through your nose. As you breathe out, let that grey mass of  
darkness and negativity flow out from you, into the egg, filling it and  
capturing it deep within. *(PAUSE)*

Keep breathing deeply until the grayness has passed, finally sealing the egg  
and trapping the negativity within. *(PAUSE 4 COUNT)*

Now as we enter the sacred space, leave these symbols behind, burying  
them deep in the earth that they may be transformed in the presence of our  
honored guest.

*All guests will place their eggs in the basket of dirt at the entry to the sanctuary, sprinkling a small bit of dirt from the bowl as they pass through. Carrion will pour the remaining dirt over the eggs and bring them into the sanctuary, setting them in the center.*

## PROCESSION

---

### **In Song (Grollwynn)**

*Through Time and Tide, through Waters Wide.*

*By Blood and Bone, by Stock and Stone.*

*By Breath and Breeze and Fire that Frees.*

© Diana Paxson

**Repeat until all have entered the Nemeton.**

### **ATTUNEMENT (Isaura)**

Closing your eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths (*pause 4 count*). We now stand together in Midgard, upon the land, beneath the sky, surrounded by the sea as we prepare to enter sacred time. (*pause 4 count*).

Below us flow the primal waters, cold, dark and chaotic; filled with the potential of all life. Reaching far beneath you into the earth, draw upon the waters of life. Feel them as they pool within your belly, within your heart and finally within your head. (*pause 8 count*).

Above us burns the primal fires, warm, light and ordered; filled with the spark of all life. Reaching far beyond the sky into the heavens, draw upon the fires of all creation. Feel them as they illuminate your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. (*pause 8 count*).

The fires of the heavens ignite the waters of the earth within you and you become one with the cosmos. Feel the primal powers of fire and water as they surge through you. Your heart beats with the very pulse of all worlds. (*pause 8 count*).

We share our world with the Spirits of Nature. Our Ancestors dwell in the Halls of the Gods. We are all cradled in the branches of the Yggdrasil. The

fire and water that flows through our veins sustains the worlds, the realms and the Kindred.

As we open our eyes let us be one in this place!

**Attunement text by Rev. Carrion Mann.**

**Morrighan and Carrion cense and asperse the participants during the attunement.**

## OPENING PRAYERS

---

**Musical Signal – An anvil is struck 3x3 times. (Carrion)**

**Honoring the Sky Father (Raven)**

Mighty Tiwaz, Father of the Clear Sky  
Boldest and most courageous Lord of Justice,  
Grant us your strength and courage.  
Great and clever Binder of Fenrir.  
Teach us the true meaning of sacrifice.  
Lord of the Allthing, join us in our celebration!

**An offering of beer is given.**

Tiwaz, accept our offering!

**All:** Tiwaz, accept our offering!

**Invocation for Bardic Inspiration (Grollwynn)**

Great Master of Poetry, and most eloquent Bard,  
Inspire and ignite our potential.  
Magician of the Spoken Word and favored Skald of Valhalla,  
Join us in celebration as we honor the Earth Mother, this night.

**An offering of honey is given.**

Bragi, accept our offering!

**All:** Bragi, accept our offering!

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (Carrion)

---

This eve we gather together between Earth and Sky, between the dark and light in celebration of the Feast of Eostre. Soon Nerthus, the Earth Mother, will return from her island in the sea, and with the awakening land the darkness of this winter world will fade into memory.

Tonight we will celebrate as the season changes and fertility returns to the land about us. May all who gather this eve be welcome among us!

## CONSECRATION OF SPACE AND PARTICIPANTS

---

### *Weaving the Druids Mist (Raven)*

#### THE SACRED CENTER

---

### Affirmation of Unity (Grollwynn)

Let us now raise our voice as one people.

#### *In song*

*Building bridges between our divisions*

*I reach out for you as you reach out for me.*

*With all of our voices and all of our visions*

*Brothers we could make such a sweet harmony.*

*Sisters we could make such a sweet harmony.*

#### *Author Unknown*

### Establishing Sacred Time (Carrion)

In the early age of the cosmos there was no sand nor sea nor cool waves about us. There was neither Earth below us nor Heavens above us, only the vast expanse of Ginnungagap.

From the North came thick frost and icy winds of Niflheim and from the South, the sparks and embers of Muspellheim. As the primal powers converged, the melting of the ice formed the great giant Ymir and the primal cow Audhumla.

Ymir rested upon the land fed by the milk of Audhumla, and Audhumla was nourished by licking the melting ice. As she licked the ice, she brought forth from the ice the first beings. From under the arms of Ymir came the first born man and woman and from his feet, the frost giants. Odin, Vili and Ve, grandsons of the first being, slew the great giant and from the sacrifice of Ymir came the world.

His blood became the waters, his flesh the land. His bones became the mountains and stones. His skull cap became the sky and his eyebrows the walls of Midgard standing against the frost giants.

And so it was through sacrifice that the worlds were created.

### *“Portal Song” (Grollwynn)*

#### CHORUS

*By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky*

*We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.*

*By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky*

*We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.*

*Come we now to the Well, the eye and the mouth of Earth.*

*Come we now to the Well, and silver we bring.*

*Come we now to the Well, the waters of rebirth.*

*Come we now to the Well, and together we sing.*

**CHORUS – Offering of silver is made to the Well.**

*We will kindle a Fire, Bless all and with harm to none.*

*We will kindle a Fire, and offerings pour.*

*We will kindle a Fire, a light 'neath the Moon and Sun.*

*We will kindle a Fire, our spirits will soar.*

**CHORUS – Offering of incense is made to the Fire.**

*Gather we at the Tree, the root and the crown of all.*

*Gather we at the Tree, below and above.*

*Gather we at the Tree, together we make our call.*

*Gather we at the Tree, in wisdom and love.*

**CHORUS – World Tree is censured and asperged.**

© Stone Creed Grove, ADF.

## COMPLETING THE COSMOS

---

### *To Land, Sea and Sky (Raven)*

The waters support and surround us.

The land extends about us.

The sky stretches above us.

And at the center burns a living flame.

Let us pray with a good fire.

May all the Kindred bless us.

May our worship be true.

May our actions be just.

May our love be pure.

Praise, honor and worship to the Holy Ones.

*Land, Sea and Sky text by Ceisiwr Serith.*

## OPENING THE GATES

---

**(Carrion)** Hail the High One, Hanged God of the Heavens.

Wield the Wild that rushes our hearts and minds.

Wisdom whirls on the wind.

Mighty Magician of the Dead, Master of Fury and March

First Father of the Folk, we call forth your protection.

Wanderer, walk with us between the worlds

We travel this night!

*Beer is offered to the Gatekeeper.*

Woden, accept our offering!

**All:** Woden, accept our offering!

Let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

### *All in song*

*Gatekeeper open the portals,*

*Between the Gods and Mortals.*

*Power freely flows, as our magic grows!*

**Repeat chant three times.**

© Liafal

## Opening the Gates

**(Raven, Carrion and Grollwynn)**

Woden, let us stand at the center of all worlds!

**(Raven)** Sacred Fires of the heavens burn within this place.

**(Carrion)** Primal Waters of the earth flow within this place.

**(Grollwynn)** World Tree, joining earth and sky, grow within this place.

*Striking a sigil over the fire...*

**(Raven)** Let this fire carry our praise and sacrifice to the Shining Ones.

*Striking a sigil over the well...*

**(Carrion)** Let this well carry our praise and sacrifice to the Mighty Dead.

*Striking a sigil upon the tree...*

**(Grollwynn)** Let this tree connect the worlds as they become one in this place.

By the Land before us!

**(Carrion)** By the Seas about us!

**(Raven)** By the Sky above us!

**(Raven, Carrion & Grollwynn)** Let the Gates be open!

**All:** Let the Gates be open!

We now stand at the center of all worlds!

*Gate opening text by Rev. Carrion Mann*

## HONORING THE BEINGS OF THE RITE

---

**(Grollwynn)** We have opened the gates between the worlds that we may communicate with our allies at the crossroads. Let us now call out so that they may join us in this place.

### **Noble Spirits (Sy)**

From green forests and golden fields,

Across the rivers and lakes, from above and below,

We call to fur, feather, scale and skin.

Mighty Guardians of the Lands we share,

Hail to the Vættir; House Ghosts, Wights and Alfar.

We invite you to join us as we honor the Earth Mother this eve!

*Seed and cream are offered.*

Nature Spirits, accept our offering!

**All:** Nature Spirits, accept our offerings!

**Mighty Ancestors (Jim)**

Across the space of time, beyond barriers of the here and now,  
To the legends of stories and song,  
We call to our Ancestors of Spirit.

To the long line of our Fathers and Mothers,  
We call to our Ancestors of Flesh and Bone.

Hail to our beloved ancestors of blood and spirit.

We invite you to join us as we honor the Earth Mother this eve!

***Bread and alcohol are offered.***

Mighty Ancestors, accept our offering!

**All:** Mighty Ancestors, accept our offerings!

**Shining and Chthonic Ones (Isaura)**

Through the mists and into the Halls of Asgard  
We call to the Eldest and Brightest of the Realms.

Weavers of our Wyrd and Forgers of our Fate.

Dweller of the Light and the Dark.

Hail, Mighty Ases and Bountiful Van,

We invite you to join us as we honor the Earth Mother this eve!

***Alcohol is offered.***

Shining and Chthonic Ones, accept our offering!

**All:** Shining and Chthonic Ones, accept our offerings!

**HONORING THE DEITY OF THE RITE**

---

**(Raven) (Spoken softly)**

Too long has the world been gripped by ice and snow.

**All:** *The Mother is Sleeping.*

Too long have we dreamt of warmer days and greener lands.

**All:** *The Mother is Sleeping.*

Too long has the darkness dominated the light.

**All:** *The Mother is Sleeping.*

**(Carrion) (Spoken louder)**

The Chariot of the Sun spins ever closer.

**All:** *The Mother is Waking!*

The ice and snow are swiftly melting.

**All:** *The Mother is Waking!*

Old Man Winter's power is quickly fading.

**All:** *The Mother is Waking!*

**(Grollwynn) (Spoken louder)**

Soon the World begins a-stirring!

**All:** *The Mother is Coming!!*

No longer will darkness hold sway over the land!

**All:** *The Mother is Coming!! The Mother is Coming!!*

All Hail Nerthus, Earth Mother!

**All:** *The Mother is Coming!! The Mother is Coming!! The Mother is Coming!!*

Let us greet the Earth Mother as she returns from her Island in the Sea!

***All assembled begin chanting as the wagon carrying Nerthus is brought to the Hallows by the "Sacrificial Slave" (Maggie) and wheeled around the Hallows. As the wagon circles and participants chant, flowers are placed before the wagon as it passes. (Little Raven)***

*She is Coming, She is Coming from the Depths of the Earth.*

*She is Coming from her Island in the Sea.*

*She is Coming, She is Coming bringing joy, bringing mirth.*

*She is Coming to set us free!*

***"She is Coming" © Diana Paxson***

***Repeat until Nerthus has circled the Hallows three times.***

**(Grollwynn)** Once more the sun is returning to bring warmth to the land and the land will rise to greet him. The Sacred Union of Earth and Sky will bring forth new life. As our lives are blessed with new beginnings let us now bring forth our gifts of praise to Nerthus.

***Participants are given opportunity to bring their gifts and offerings to Nerthus.***

### PRAYER OF SACRIFICE (Carrion)

---

Tonight we have gathered together to show our love and respect for our honored guest. We have offered our gifts and our praise to the Earth Mother in the hopes that we may receive her blessings in return.

We honor the Earth Mother as she walks among us. We ask for her guidance, her inspiration and her bounty. Let us raise our voices once more in a joyous sound as we call out through the crossroads to our honored guest.

### FINAL SACRIFICE

---

A slow drum beat begins. Other participants will take up shakers and other instruments or participate in dancing and intoning to raise magical energy for Nerthus. The Seer will collect and direct the energy raised through the gate and communicate with Nerthus. They will take an omen by drawing either *Nauthiz*, representing the need to continue or *Gebo* representing our gift for a gift and the acceptance of our sacrifice. The assembled company will raise energy until the final sacrifice has been accepted. If so, the Seer will then conclude the raising of energy with “Our Sacrifice has been accepted!” followed by a priest (**Grollwynn**) pronouncing: “Nerthus, give us the Waters!”

### THE OMEN & BLESSING OF THE WATERS (Grollwynn)

---

The priest takes up the blessing cups and infuses them with the power returning from the gateway. Once the blessings have been infused they will raise the cups and pronounce “Behold the Waters of Life” all assembled will respond, “Behold the Waters of Life!” The priest will then say that these cups contain the blessings of Nerthus. *Do you wish to receive the Blessings of Nerthus?* Participants respond. *Do you wish to receive the Blessings of Nerthus?* Participants respond. *Do you wish to receive the Blessings of Nerthus!?* Participants respond. *Then let us share all she has to offer us!* As the blessings are passed, the Bard will lead the following chant:

### **“Power of the Spirit.”**

(Males assembled)

*Power of the Spirit...*

(Females assembled)

*Growing in me...*

*Flowing through me...*

*Shining through me...*

### THE WORK (Grollwynn)

Great Earth Mother, this eve we have come together as kith and kin to honor your gifts. We have given our praise and sacrifice receiving your blessings in return.

Before we entered this sacred place, we set aside those elements which have held us back and impeded our growth. We emptied our hearts and minds of sorrow and grief.

Nerthus, Earth Mother, tonight we ask you to bless these symbols of fertility and new life, transforming the chaos that lies within that it will bring us health, wealth and wisdom. Like the seed that becomes the fruit on the vine, let us reach our potential through your gifts!

Nerthus, Earth Mother, Let it be so!

**All:** Let it be so!

***The assembled folk start coming to the Hallows to pick an egg from the basket. At this time, the egg is broken setting free the transformed positive energy. During this time the following chant is repeated until all have had a chance to break eggs.***

*Mother, O Mother of all growing things.*

*Unto our being, your golden offerings.*

*Bless this seed to fulfill its design.*

*Of leaf and fruit, of blossom and vine.*

**Author unknown**

---

## THANKING THE BEINGS

---

**(Grollwynn)** Now let us thank those Beings that have joined us this evening.

**(Grollwynn)** Mighty Nerthus, you have sustained us and supported us. May the Earth be fruitful once more through your blessings. Earth Mother, we thank you for the fertility and bounty you have granted us. **(A final token is given.)** May there be peace between us until we meet once more by the hearth fire.

Nerthus, we thank you!

**All:** Nerthus, we thank you!

**(Sy)** Mighty Kindred of Land, Sea and Sky, Eldest and Brightest of the Nine Worlds: Ases and Van; Ancestors of Blood and Spirit; House Ghosts, Wights, and Alfar. May you continue to protect, guide and bless us as we walk this path. Kindred, we thank you for the knowledge, guidance and blessings you have shared with us. **(A final token is given.)** May there be peace between us until we meet once more by the hearth fire. Kindred, we thank you!

**All:** Kindred, we thank you!

**(Grollwynn)** Bragi, Great Herald and Mighty Poet, we thank you for the inspiration and eloquence you have granted us this eve. **(A final token is given.)** May there be peace between us until we meet once more by the hearth fire. Bragi, we thank you!

**All:** Bragi, we thank you!

## CLOSING THE GATES **(Carrion)**

---

Woden, Wise Wanderer, we thank you for your protection and your guidance as we have honored Nerthus this night. **(Final token is offered.)**

Woden, we thank you!

**All:** Woden, we thank you!

**(Carrion)** Mighty Woden, Warder of the Gates, we now ask that you aid us to close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

## **(Raven)**

Let the fire burning toward the heavens become once more but flame.

**(Carrion)** Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld become once more but water.

**(Grollwynn)** Let the tree, pathway between the Earth and Sky, become once more but wood.

By the land before us!

**(Carrion)** By the seas about us!

**(Raven)** By the sky above us!

**(Raven, Carrion & Grollwynn)** Let the Gates be closed!

**All:** Let the Gates be closed!

## Thanking the Sky Father **(Raven)**

---

Great Father of the Clear Sky, may you continue to ignite the potential within. Tiwaz we thank you for your sacrifice and the wisdom it brings us. **Final token is offered.** May there be peace between us until we meet once more by the hearth's fire.

Sky Father, we thank you!

**All:** Sky Father, we thank you!

**(Grollwynn)** We now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain us.

## STATEMENT OF ENDING **(Isaura)**

---

Children of Earth and Sky, join me as we close our eyes; breathing deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth **(pause for a 2 count)**. As the mighty ash is part of the forest, we are all part of the great circle of life. Remember the blessings we have received together this night **(pause)**.

As we stand between Earth and Sky once more feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth. Know that below us flow the primal waters. Once more feel the coolness of the waters that have pooled within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. **(pause 4 count)**

Reaching high into the sky above, feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens. Know that above us burn the primal fires. Once more feel the

warmth of the fires that have illuminated your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. *(pause 4 count)*

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky surging through you, as they have given strength and energy to your being. *(pause 4 count)* Keep of this power what you need, sending what remains forth from our beings into the Great Lake *(pause)*. See this energy heal and protect her as we conclude our worship. May all that is be what was, that it may be again!

Musical Signal *An anvil is struck 3x3 times.* **(Carrion)**

**All:** We will keep the faith until the sky falls upon us and crushes us; until the earth opens and swallows us; until the seas arise and overwhelm us!

Recessional Song **(Grollwynn)**

*Walk with Wisdom from this Hallowed place.  
Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall embrace.  
May strength be our brother, and honor be our friend.  
And luck be our lover, until we meet again.  
Words and music by Sable.*