

Whispering Lake Grove ADF



Eostre

March 22, 2009

6:00 PM

PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT (Isaura)

Closing your eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths.
Breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth.
In through your nose and out through your mouth.
As you breathe, lay aside the worries, troubles and woes of the
mundane world. (*pause 4 count*)

We now stand between Earth and Sky
Feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth
Know that below us flows the primal waters
Cold, dark and chaotic; filled with the potential of all life.

Allow the primal waters to enter your being.
Feel the coolness of the waters as they pool within your belly,
within your heart and finally, within your head. (*pause 8
count*)

Reaching high into the sky above
Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens
Know that above us burns the primal fires
Warm, light and ordered; filled with the spark of all life.

Allow the primal fire to enter your being.
Feel the warmth of the fires as they illuminate your mind, your
heart and finally your spirit. (*pause 8 count*)

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky as they surge through
you, lending strength and energy to your being. (*pause 8
count*)

Now join your hands, your hearts and your minds as one
people. (*All participants join hands*)

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky as they surge through
us, lending strength and energy to one and all.

As we open our eyes, know that we assemble as one folk to worship with a common purpose.

All:

May our worship be true.

May our actions be just.

May our love be pure.

Blessings, honor and worship to the Holy Ones.

Honoring Our Grove Patron (Chris G.)

Wise One of the Ages

Patron of our Grove

Weaver of the Druid's Mist

King without a throne

He, who walks beside us

And forever hears our call.

Guide, friend and companion.

Welcome to our hall.

(Member) will prepare a special offering for the Grove Patron and give the offering at this time.

Manannan Mac Lir, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

PROCESSION

In Song & Dance (Carrion)

The Earth she is singing, o ma, ma, ma

The Earth she is dancing, o ma, ma, ma

The Earth she is laughing, o ma, ma, ma

The Earth she's our Mother, o ma, ma, ma

O ma, ma, ma, hey, o ma, ma, ma (X4)

Repeat until all participants have entered the worship area and then continue singing and begin the dance.

OPENING PRAYERS

(Eld Naðr)

Musical Signal- A Thonar's Hammer strikes the anvil 9 times.

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

NOTE: The Earth Mother invitation will be extended during the Key Offer portion of the ritual.

Sky Father (Grollwynn)

standing at the sacred fire arms outstretched to the sky.

Shining God of the Clear Sky!

Fiery Star of the Heavens

We call you near...

Bless our work!

Order our world!

Ignite new life within us!

Incense is offered to the Sky Father.

Tiwaz, accept our offering!

All: Tiwaz, All Hail and Welcome!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration (Eld Naðr)

We call upon the Skald of Valhall

Most eloquent God of poetry and song

And Herald of Wodan's Great Hall

Oh, welcomer of the Einherjar

Bless us with your inspiration and eloquence this night!

An offering of honey is placed in the offering bowl for Brego.

Brego, accept our offering!

All: Brego, All Hail and Welcome!

Invocation to the Elder Wise (Raven)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (Carrion)

At Yule our community faced the long dark with strength, perseverance and courage. Though only a flicker of light remained, we worked to turn the wheel toward the warmth and light of springtime... uncertain of our future.

In February we Charmed Our Plows and made our first furrows in the Earth in preparation for the work to come.

This night we shall worship and honor Nerthus calling her from her slumber that she may bring fertility to our world once more as she journeys among us. Tonight we shall celebrate the returning warmth and light of the sun as we welcome the rebirth of Midgard.

May all who gather this night be welcome among us!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Outdwellers (*at the Southern fire the Sacrificer lays a token for the Outdwellers*) (Raven)

Beings of chaos and discord!

Hoard, whose minds know not rest and whose spirits know not peace.

To all those whose screams and cries, harmonize not with our songs and praise.

Know that this time and place we claim as ours!

You may have held it in the past, you may hold it in the future, but for now,

Let it be known that it is OURS!

We have given to you all that we intend to give.

May order reign and chaos trouble not our gathering!

Purification of Participants & Space

The aspersion bowl is filled by Morrighan, from the Well and the

censer is kindled from the Fire by Marisha Ritual participants are cleansed with water from the well and purified with smoke from the censor. After the participants are cleansed and purified the Nemetón is cleansed and purified as the following power building chant is led by Raven.

With the powers to create and destroy.

And the strength to cleanse and purify.

When all participants have been purified Raven will step forward saying:

(Raven)

Through the union of fire and water,

Our Nemetón is made whole and holy!

Once more we have met the threat of chaos with order and laid claim to this place. We have made sacred this space and time that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one people.

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

(Grollwynn)

Deep Peace (Author Unknown)

Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Deep peace of the sacred flame

Deep peace of the running wave to you

Deep peace of the quiet earth

May peace, may peace, may peace fill your soul

Let peace, let peace, let peace make you whole.

Repeat chant 3 times

Establishing Sacred Time (Eld Naðr)

In the beginning so too in the end; there was but fire and ice
And between them a vast emptiness.

To the North the ice and snow of Niflheim, frigid winds and fearsome storms ravaged the land.

To the South the fires of Muspell, molten and glowing the dancing flames consumed all that lay before them.

In the vast emptiness the warm breath of Muspell mingled with the ice of Niflheim. The warm winds began to melt the ice and tiny drops of water began to form. Within the tiny drops of water new life began to stir and the powers to destroy life became the powers that created it.

COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky

(Raven) The waters support and surround us.

(Carrion) From the Underworld below,
Sacred waters flow within this well.

Offering of silver is made to the well.

(Raven) The land extends about us.

(Carrion) Within the Middleworld,
Sacred tree grow within this place.

Offering of water from the well and incense is made.

(Raven) The sky stretches above us.

(Carrion) From the Heavens above,
Sacred spark burn within this fire.

Offering of incense is made to the fire.

(Raven) And at the center burns a living flame.

(Carrion) Let us pray with a good fire.

(Raven) May all the Kindred bless us.

(Carrion) May our worship be true.

(Raven) May our actions be just.

(Carrion) May our love be pure.

(Raven) (Carrion) Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.

Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith, modified by Raven & Carrion Mann.

OPENING THE GATES

Invocation to the Gatekeeper (Raven)

Heimdall, Son of the Nine Waves; Father of Mankind

It is your might and magic that wards the threshold.

White Lord of the Crossroads; Sounder of Gjallarhorn

It is your warning that all will hear before Ragnarok.

Mighty Watchman of the Gods, this night we ask for your

protection and guidance as the worlds converge upon this place.

(Eld Naðr) *A offering of German beer and bread is made.*

Heimdall, Great Guardian of Bifrost, accept our offering!

All: Heimdall, All Hail and Welcome!

(Carrion) Let us now sing our praise to Heimdall.

All in song

Gatekeeper open the portals,

Between the Gods and mortals,

Power freely flows, as our magic grows!

Repeat chant three times

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Opening the Gates

(Raven, Carrion and Grollwynn)

Heimdall, merge now your magick with ours!

(Raven)

See the flame leaping forth from the fire.

(Carrion)

See the mist arising from the well,

(Raven, Carrion and Grollwynn)

Flame and mist converging upon the tree.

Forming a meeting place between the realms

(Raven) *Striking the hammer sign over the fire*

Let the fire burning towards the heavens open as a gate that we may follow the way to the Shining Ones.

(Carrion) *Striking the hammer sign over the well*

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld open as a gate that we may follow the way to the Mighty Dead.

(Grollwynn) *Striking the hammer sign upon the tree*

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, be open to us.

By the land before us!

(Raven & Carrion)

By the seas about us!

(Raven & Carrion)

By the sky above us!

(Raven, Carrion & Grollwynn)

Let the Gates Be Open!

GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

(Carrion)

Now that the world of the living and that of the spirit are one, we call out from the crossroads to the Mighty Kindred. Allies of Midgard!

(Isaura)

We call to the Kindred of the Nine Worlds!

Noble, Mighty and Shining Ones of land, sea and sky.

Beloved allies, guides and protectors.

Join us as we celebrate the awakening land.

Stand with us as we honor Nerthus this night.

Beer, 3 Red Eggs, and Seeds are offered. (Eld Naðr)

Mighty Kindred, accept our offering!

All: Mighty Kindred, All Hail and Welcome!

(Carrion) Let us now raise our voices in song to the Kindred.

*Hail all the Gods,
Hail all the Goddesses,
Hail all the Holy Ones,
We dwell together.*

*Lords of the sky,
Ladies of the sacred earth,
Spirits and the ancestors,
We dwell together.*

Repeat chant 3x

© *Words by Paul Maurice. Music by Paul Maurice, Sean Miller and Gail Williams*

(Eld Naðr)

Mighty Kindred, accept our offerings!

All: Mighty Kindred, All Hail and Welcome!

HONORING THE DEITY OF THE RITE

Invocation to Nerthus

(Grollwynn)

Darkness turns day to night.

And the Mother of this land lies sleeping.

A cool silence fills our world.

And the Mother of this land lies sleeping.

Frigid winds whistle through the frozen trees.

And the Mother of this land lies sleeping.

The Sun's fire is distant and daylight short...

And the Mother of this land lies sleeping...

(Carrion)

But the wheel turns once more.

And the Mother stirs within the Earth.

Daylight lengthens; the Sun grows closer.

And the Mother stirs within the Earth.

The warming winds and rain begin to melt the ice and snow.
And the Mother stirs within the Earth.
The birds and animals return to this land....
And the Mother stirs within the Earth....

(Raven)

On a far off island she rise from the Earth.
And she is wheeled forth with honor.
The Sun watches and awaits the Mother.
And she is wheeled forth with honor.
His warmth covers over her.
And she is wheeled forth with honor.
The folks gather in anxious anticipation.
And she is wheeled forth with honor.

Nerthus and her wagon will be brought to the sanctuary doorway. As Raven finishes his part of the invocation the wagon will be processed to the ritual area as all participants chant the following:

(Grollwynn)

*She is coming, she is coming from the depths of the earth.
She is coming from her island on the sea.
She is coming, she is coming bringing joy, bringing mirth.
She is coming to set us free!*

Currently Unknown Author

The chant will be sung 3x through and the wagon will circle the hollows and stop in the center.

(Raven) The Sky Father returns to illuminate our world!

(Carrion) And the Earth Mother awakens to greet him!

(Grollwynn) Their sacred union bringing forth new life!

(Eld Naðr) *is offered to Nerthus.*

(Raven) Nerthus, accept our offering!

All: Nerthus, All Hail and Welcome!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

(Carrion) At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to Nerthus and the season. *(Once all personal praise offerings have been made to the Deity of the Occasion the Group will offer praise)*

Group Praise Offering/Seasonal Enactment **(Carrion)**
Carrion will lead a short springtime meditation followed by Grollwynn leading the following chant.

(Grollwynn)

*Down, down... sing down, down... sing down, down to the darkness.
Down, down... sing down, down... sing down, down to Nerthus.
Rise up... hail! Rise up... Hail! Rise up from the darkness.
Rise up... hail! Rise up... Hail! Rise up from Nerthus.*

Currently Unknown Author

During this portion of the ritual participants will be asked to locate the first signs of spring that will have been previously placed within the sanctuary. Participants will each locate and take a sign of springtime with them. All of the signs of spring will contain a rune and key words. Each rune will hold a springtime blessing of fertility for the participant. Participants will return to the ritual area and share their springtime sign and the blessing of Nerthus they have received.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

(Raven)

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor Nerthus, as she walks among us.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive her guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to our guest of honor!

As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.

The final sacrifice is prepared. (Eld Naðr)

(Eld Naðr)

It is in love, honor and respect that we have offered hospitality to Nerthus this night.

We have sung her praise; made our sacrifice.

It is our hope that our words and sacrifice have conveyed our love.

We call once more through the Gates and deep within the Otherworld that all shall know of our devotion.

Nerthus, we honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Nerthus, accept our sacrifice!

All: Nerthus, accept our sacrifice!

Participants chant the following as the Seer takes the omen.

Participants will focus all their love and energy, sending it through the gates to Nerthus.

(Carrion)

Join me as we once more raise our voices in song as our Nerthus reveals her will.

All in song

Earth Mother, We sing to your body,

Earth Mother, We sing to your bones,

Earth Mother, We honor your body,

Earth Mother, We honor your stones.

(lyrics and music written by an unknown author)

THE OMEN

(Raven)(Eld Naðr)

The Omen is taken by drawing three Runes. The seer then interprets the omen asking if our sacrifice and offerings have

been accepted. The Seer then leads the company to contemplate the blessings/warnings of the omen from the Deity of the Occasion.

CALLING FOR THE BLESSING (Raven)(Carrion)

Two pitchers will be filled and sat in the midst of the hallows.

The following words will be spoken over the pitchers.

(Raven) As in the ways of old we have given our gifts freely and as in the ways of old a gift is given unto us in return.

(Carrion) We will drink deep of the Cup of Inspiration. May the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom be ours.

(Raven) Nerthus your blessings upon us!

All: Nerthus your blessings upon us!

(Carrion) We gather with you between Earth and Sky. We are proud to call ourselves your people.

(Raven) Once again, Nerthus your blessings upon us!

All: Nerthus your blessings upon us!

(Carrion) We have brought our offerings. We have made sacrifice.

(Raven) One last time, Nerthus your blessings upon us!

All: Nerthus your blessings upon us!

(Eld Naðr) ***The pitchers are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.***

HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

(Eld Naðr) Behold the Waters of Life!

(Raven) Nerthus hear and bless us.

(Carrion) Primal Goddess of the Awakening Earth, hallow these Waters of Life.

(Eld Naðr) ***lifts the pitchers before the participants.***

(Eld Naðr) Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

(Eld Naðr) Now Children of Earth and Sky, do you wish to receive the blessings Nerthus has given us this night? _____ . Then we shall drink deep her blessings!

The Waters are passed (Eld Naðr & Chris G) and all participants share the waters. As the waters are passed the following song is sung by all participants.

(Grollwynn) As we receive the blessing let us raise our voices in song.

In song

Pour the waters, raise the cup, drink your share of wisdom deep, strength and love now fill us up as the elder ways we keep.

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Repeat until the horns have been passed to all participants.

THANKING THE BEINGS

(Carrion) Bountiful Mother of this land. We thank you for the fertility and rebirth you have brought to our world. May you continue to support and sustain us always. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Nerthus, we thank you!

(Isaura) Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky. May you continue to protect, guide and bless us as we walk this path. Kindred we thank you for the knowledge and blessings you have shared with us. **(3 final tokens are offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Kindred, we thank you!

(Raven) Elder Wise, Ancient Wise Ones before us, we thank you for the wisdom, inspiration and guidance you offer us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Elder Wise, we thank you!

(Eld Naðr) Brego, Great Skald of the Halls of Valhalla. God of Poetry and Song. We thank you for the inspiration and eloquence you have shared with us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Brego, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

(Raven) Heimdall, Mighty Watchman of the Gods; we thank you for your protection and guidance this night. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Heimdall, we thank you!

(Raven)

Heimdall, Great Guardian of Bifrost, we now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

(Raven) Striking the hammer sign over the fire

Let the fire burning towards the heavens once more become but flames.

(Carrion) Striking the hammer sign over the well

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld once more become but water.

(Grollwynn) Striking the hammer sign upon the tree

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, become 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!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

(Grollwynn) Shining One of the Clear Sky, may you continue to illuminate our world. Bright Father of the Aesir, we thank you for your blessings. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.
All: Sky Father, we thank you!

(Eld Naðr) We now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and the Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain us. *All offerings that remain are burnt in the fire or scattered upon the Earth.*

STATEMENT OF ENDING

(Isaura) Children of Earth and Sky, join me once more 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 flows 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 burns 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!

(Eld Naðr)
Musical Signal- *A Thonar's Hammer strikes the anvil 9 times.*

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 arises and overwhelm us.

Recessional Song

(Grollwynn) Once more may we now raise our voices in song as we leave our Nemeton.

CHORUS

*The sky fuels the waters
And the waters sustain the skies
We walk together from this place
With the honored as our guides*

*Strong in our purpose
We balance and survive
From many wells of fortitude
Our spirits are revived*

CHORUS

*Joyous in our sharing
We honor dead and alive
With voices of sacred wisdom
We travel the path of our lives*

CHORUS

*Fulfilled in our learning
Our souls will always thrive
In our varied hearts and minds
We keep the sacred for all time*

CHORUS

(lyrics by Moon Dragon; music by Raven of the Sorrows)

Special Thanks To:

All who attended, participated and shared in our Eostre celebration.

*Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants
The Gatekeeper Chant and Pour the Waters*

*Paul Maurice, Sean Miller and Gail Williams for the chant
Hail all the Gods*

*The unknown author of the chants:
Deep Peace, Earth Mother & Nerthus chants.*

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.



***Whispering Lake Grove
Eostre Ritual
2009***

*Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)*

Rev. Raven & Rev. Carrion Mann

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