

Whispering Lake Grove

ADF



Eostre

March 21, 2010

6:00 PM

PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT

Joining our hands and closing our 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 flows 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 Yggdrasill. 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!

Honoring Our Grove Patron

Rider of the Maned Waves...

Protect us from the storms.

Guardian of the Threshold...

Guide us from all harm.

Magician of the Shoreline...

Bless us with your might.

Mist Weaver,

May you walk with us this night!

An offering is made to Manannan.

Manannan, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

PROCESSION

In Song

Come we now as a people

To gather together at the sacred well

Come we now as a people

To gather in the warmth and the light of the flame

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Repeat until all participants have entered the worship area.

OPENING PRAYERS

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

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Earth Mother

kneeling at the well

Ancient One of ever changing beauty

Primal Mother of Gods and Men

And Great Goddess of Sovereignty

We are renewed in your waters

Cradled within your mantel of green

And sustained by your abundance

Earth Mother, we call upon the life-giving magic of the Earth!

White bread is offered to the Earth Mother.

Earth Mother, accept our offering!

All: Earth Mother, All Hail and Welcome!

Sky Father

standing at the sacred fire arms outstretched to the sky.

Flashing One of the Sun's healing warmth

Brilliant Father of the Clear Sky

And Great God of the creative spark

We are purified between your flames

Strengthened through your radiant light

And prosper from your fertility

Sky Father, we call upon the illuminating power of the Sky!

Olive oil is offered upon the fire to the Sky Father.

Sky Father, accept our offering!

All: Sky Father, All Hail and Welcome!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

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 made.

Bragi, accept our offering!

All: Bragi, All Hail and Welcome!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Eostre was the time our Ancestors gathered to celebrate the returning warmth and light of the sun. For the Ancients the sights and sounds of Spring's return guaranteed the end of the long dark.

As our Ancestors once did, so too do we gather this night one with another to celebrate the returning warmth and light of the sun and to welcome the rebirth of the natural world around us.

Children of Earth and Sky, know this night our honored guest, Eostre, Great Goddess of Spring's Renewal will walk with us once more and also know that on this night Old Man Winter will meet his match.

May all who gather in our hall this night be welcome among us!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Purification of Participants & Space

The aspersion bowl is filled from the Well and the censor is kindled from the Fire. Ritual participants are cleansed with water from the well and purified with smoke from the censor. After the participants are cleansed and purified the Nemeton is cleansed and purified as the following power building chant is led.

With the powers to create and destroy.

And the strength to cleanse and purify.

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

Through the union of fire and water,
Our Nemeton is made whole and holy!

Outdwellers

Weaving the Druids Mist

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

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

In song & Yes, with the dance.

We are a circle moving

One with another, we are

Moving together, we are one.

We are a circle moving

One with another, we are

Moving together, we are one.

I am spirit, and I flow in you.

You are spirit and you flow in me.

(Words and music by Marae Price)

Repeat chant 3 times

Establishing Sacred Time

In the beginning and so too in the end; there was but the fires of the Sky and the waters of the Earth and between them a vast emptiness. Now, within the vast emptiness the illuminating power of the heavens and the creative potential of the Earth converged. The fires of the Sky ignited the waters of the Earth and new life began to stir. Through the union of fire and water came forth the worlds, the realms and the Mighty Kindred., nine holy things which would create all others.

Fire, Well & Tree (chant)

Fire, bright Fire

Gate to the Shining Ones

Fire, bright Fire

Our passage to the Sky

Fire, bright Fire

Warmth of our Community

Spark of Life

We honor you now

Incense is offered to the fire.

Well, deep Well

Gate to the Underworld

Well, deep Well

Our passage to the Sea

Well, deep Well

Wisdom of the Ancestors

Waters of Life

We honor you now

Silver is offered into the well.

Tree, great Tree

Gate that reaches everywhere

Tree, great Tree

With you we share the Land

Tree, great Tree

Our passage to the Otherworld

Source of Life

We honor you now.

The bile is asperged with water from the well and censed with incense.

Words & music by Pandora

COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky

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.

Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.

Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith

OPENING THE GATES

Upon the windy Tree hung the Wanderer,

Seeking the wisdom of the past.

For nine long nights Harr journeyed alone,

Seeking the knowledge of the present.

With unyielding strength Odin sacrificed himself,

Seeking the vision of the future.

Oh, Rider of the Yggdrasill,

Merge your magic with my own,

Wield the Words of Power,

From your high and mighty throne.

Vodka is offered to Odin

Odin, accept our offering!

All: Odin, All Hail and Welcome!

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

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Opening the Gates

A Galder chant for the rune ansuz begins.

Odin, let us stand at the center of all worlds!
Sacred Fires of the heavens, burn within this place.
Primal Waters of the earth, flow within this place.
World Tree joining earth and sky, grow within this place.

Striking a sigil over the fire.

Let this fire carry our praise and sacrifice to the Shining Ones.

Striking a sigil over the well.

Let this well carry our praise and sacrifice to the Mighty Dead.

Striking a sigil upon the tree.

Let this tree connect the worlds as they become one in this place.

By the land before us!

By the seas about us!

By the sky above us!

(Raven)

Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

(Raven)

We now stand at the center of all worlds!

GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

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!

Bright and shining messengers to the Otherworld

Protectors of this sacred ground.

Light Alfs, House Ghosts and Wights,

Be welcome among us!

Seeds are offered.

Wise Ones of the Nine Worlds!

Beloved Dead of blood and spirit

Ancestors of flesh and bone

Alfar and Disir, be welcome among us!

Red Eggs are offered.

Eldest and Brightest of Asgard!

Deities of Might and Magic

Bringers of life, death and rebirth.

Mighty Aesir and Bountiful Vanir

Shining Ones be welcome among us!

German Beer is offered.

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

Mighty Kindred, accept our offerings!

All: Mighty Kindred, All Hail and Welcome!

HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

Invocation to Eostre

Great Goddess of the Growing Green...

Granter of Youthful Beauty

Shining Light of the Sun's rise...

Shaper of new beginnings

Gather with us at the Gates this night...

Graceful maiden of Springtime

We welcome winters end...

Walk with us as the wheel turns once more

Bring forth fertility to this frozen land...

Free the folk from the darkness!

Hot crossed buns are offered to Eostre .

Eostre, accept our offering!

All: Eostre, All Hail and Welcome!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to Eostre 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

Children of Earth and Sky, long has the snow laid deep upon our land. Long has the icy chill gripped our hearts and long has the deep dark gripped our minds.

For too long Old Man Winter has held sway over the land, but tonight his reign has ended.

Tonight we celebrate the growing light and the coming of Spring. Tonight we celebrate for the tribe has survived another long dark and the horn has yet to sound.

(Holding up Old Man Winter) Behold, Old Man Winter!

Join with me now as we give Old Man Winter his just due and drive him beyond the fire's light.

Raven will toss Old Man Winter into the ritual space. Participants will start kicking and beating Old Man Winter about the room and out of the Nemeton and into the parking lot.

Once outside...he will meet his final end.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;

We honor Eostre, 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.

It is in love, honor and respect that we have offered hospitality to Eostre 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.

Eostre, we honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Eostre, accept our sacrifice!

All: Eostre, accept our sacrifice!

Once more let us raise our voices in song as our honored guest reveals her will.

In song

Goddesses and Gods

Hear us call

Aesir and Vanir

Bless us all

By your might, by your main

Give to us, o High Ones

Peace and Good Harvest

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THE OMEN

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

Two pitchers will be filled and sat in the midst of the hallows. The following words will be spoken over the pitchers.

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

Eostre your blessings upon us!

All: Eostre your blessings upon us!

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

Once again, Eostre your blessings upon us!

All: Eostre your blessings upon us!

We have brought our offerings. We have made sacrifice.

One last time, Eostre your blessings upon us!

All: Eostre your blessings upon us!

The pitchers are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.

HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

Behold the Waters of Life!

Eostre hear and bless us.

Radiant Goddess of the Dawn, hallow these Waters of Life.

An officiant lifts the pitchers before the participants.

Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

Now Children of Earth and Sky, do you wish to receive the blessings our honored guest have for us this night? _____ . Then we shall drink deep their blessings!

The Waters are passed and all participants share the waters. As the waters are passed the following song is sung by all

participants.

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

Great Goddess of Spring's renewal. We thank you for your blessings this eve. May all that sleeps be renewed with the returning warmth and light. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Eostre, we thank you!

Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest and Brightest of the Nine Worlds. Aesir and Vanir; Alfar and Disir and Alfs, House Ghost and Wights. 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. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Kindred, we thank you!

Bragi, 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: Bragi,, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

Odin, One Eyed Wanderer; 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: Odin, we thank you!

Odin, Mighty Magician of the Dead, we now ask that you aid us once more as we close the gates, warding the way between the worlds.

Striking a sigil over the fire

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

Striking a sigil over the well

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

Striking a sigil upon the tree

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, become but wood.

By the land before us!

By the seas about us!

By the sky above us!

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

Ancient Mystery of the Sky, may you continue to show us the way to courage and right. Bright Father of the Aesir, we thank you for your sacrifice. **(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!

Primal Mother of Earth, may you continue to grant us peace and plenty. Ancient Mother, we thank you for all life. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Earth Mother, we thank you!

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

Good folk, 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!

Musical Signal- *A Thor'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

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

Michaela Macha for the chant Goddess and Gods

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

Marae Price for the chant We Are a Circle Moving.

Pandora for the chant
The Verticle Axis Chant

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

***Whispering Lake Grove
Eostre Ritual
2010***

***Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)***

Raven & Carrion Mann

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