

Spring Equinox (Ostara) - 2016

March 21, 2016

1 Offerings

This section describes the offerings made to the various hallows, the Kindred and the attendees of the rite.

- Guardian/Thor: Mead
- Nerthus: Grain
- Well: Silver the well
- Fire: Incense
- Tree: Water from the well
- Heimdall: Mead
- Landvaettir: Milk
- Ancestors: Bread
- AEsir/Vanir: Apple
- Eostre: Clearing the way
- Final Offering: ?
- Waters of Life: Mead

2 Initiating the Rite (Dale)

{Speaker}: Rings the bell and then speaks

Once again we have gathered together as one people, to honor our Kindred and celebrate the changing of the seasons.

Around us the spirits of nature move, amongst us our ancestors gather and before us our gods stand tall.

At this time, in this place, we set aside all that we brought with us. We focus our thoughts and our actions on this moment while we commune with the Kindred.

3 Meditation (Dale)

4 Outdwellers (Jason)

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to Thor

Hail Thor! Weilder of Mjölñir, enemy of the Midgard Serpent, vanquisher of giants, we ask you to guard our ritual. To hold at bay the Jotuns; those who would disrupt our worship, those who act outside our best interests.

Jotuns, beware this day and do not trouble our rite, for amongst us is a mighty warrior of our gods.

Thor, protector of Midgard, accept our offering and aid us.

5 Purification (Kalyn)

{Speaker}: Walks around speaking and asperging the attendees

With the melting of the snow,
With the warmth of the sun,
Through the union of fire and water, our Friö-Garør is created.

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 worship and honor the Kindred.

6 Honoring the Earth Mother (Susan & Ronald)

{Picture Bearer}: Following the speaker, walks once around the congregation with the veiled picture while Nerthus is honored

{Speaker}:

Goddess Nerthus, veiled one, you once were carried around the countryside, as we carry an image of you around this circle.

Your face hidden, but you see all;
Your body hidden, but you feel all;
Yet your spirit shines brightly for all to see;
And your body is felt beneath our feet;

{Speaker}: Speaks and places the grain in the offering bowl

Nerthus, accept our offerings!

7 Statement of Purpose (George)

{Speaker}:

We gather together this evening to worship the old gods, and to celebrate the changing of the seasons.

We are here to celebrate Ostara, the holiday dedicated to the goddess Esotere. She is the radiant goddess of the spring that brings the promise of beauty and new life into the world. We gather together to honor her, and make ourselves open to assist in the reawakening of the world.

8 Recreating the Cosmos (Dale)

{Speaker}: Moves to the bowl. Speaks then places silver in the well

Let this silver sanctify the water. Though deep within the roots of Yggdrasil you are. Let these Waters become the well of Mimir. May the knowledge you grant enlighten us. *{Speaker}: Moves to the fire. Speaks then places herbs in the fire*

Let these herbs sanctify the fire.

Through the flames comes transformation. Let this fire become Bifrost. May you transport our words and offerings to the gods.

{Speaker}: Moves to the tree or bile. Speaks then pours some water from the well onto the tree/bile

Let the water from the well of Mimir sanctify this wood.

Transform now to Yggdrasil. Through you the 9 realms are connected.

{Speaker}:

We are gathered here, in Midgard, at the base of Yggdrasil.

9 Opening the Gates (Chad)

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to the gatekeeper

Hail Heimdall! Hear us! See us!

Guardian of Asgard, ever watchful. You who hear the grass grow, and see far, lend your might to ours and assist us to open the gates between the worlds.

Let the gates be opened!

{All}:

Let the gates be opened!

9.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits (Laura)

{Speaker}:

Welcome Landvaettir!

We make space at our fire for the spirits of this land, of its plants and trees, its birds and beasts and its waters.

Landvaettir, accept our offering.

{Speaker}: Places the offering next to the World Tree

You who have dwelled in this land before man, who protect it, who nurture it.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

9.2 Inviting the Ancestors (Nick)

{Speaker}:

Welcome Alfar and Disir.

We make space at our fire for our mighty ancestors, for our honored ancestors,
and for our beloved ancestors.

Alfar and Disir, accept our offering.

{Speaker}: Places offering next to the Well

You who are of our blood and bone, you who are of our spirit and heart, you
who have walked this world and left it before us.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

9.3 Inviting the Gods (Chad)

{Speaker}:

Welcome AEsir and Vanir!

We make space at our fire for the gods of our people, and the gods of this land.

Gods, goddesses, accept our offering.

{Speaker}: Pours offering into the fire

You who nurture our spirits, you who challenge us to grow, you who we return to when we pass from this world.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

10 Key Offerings (Laura)

{Speaker}:

Welcome Eostre, Lady of the Rhine, bringer of the light. We welcome you here and we make space at our fire for you.

Eostre

She is the radiant dawn, an upspringing light full of passion.
Each leaf, each blade of grass vies for her attention.
She is the nurturing mother whose light that plays through.
She is the protector of the hare that drinks of the morning dew.
She brings us the color that the ice took away.
She walks with poise through our land letting winter know she is here to stay.
With bare clad feet dancing to her own tune,
With a dress mottled by different spring flower hues
She blesses us with her warmth and fertility again,
Holding her ever numinous eggs she continues her dance until all of the land and it's people are renewed.

Eostre, tonight we offer to you clearance within us, to use as a path to the world. We pledge to remove old patterns and behaviors that no longer serve us. As you bring your light forward into the world we too actively release the old.

We clear the way so your light may move through us and warm us.
We clear the way so your light may nurture us, as we too are of this earth.
We clear the way so your light may aid our growth, and in turn, we can reflect your light upon the world around us.

Write on the paper what habit you will clear away to let Eostre's light and growth flow into the world through you.

{Assistant}: Passes around the paper and pens

{Speaker}: Collects paper, and places them into the cauldron

{Speaker}: Speaks then lights papers on fire

Eostre, accept our offering!

{All}:

Eostre, accept our offering!

11 Prayer of Sacrifice (Kalyn)

{Speaker}:

Eostre, on this day we celebrate the life and love you have returned to us. We celebrate, along with all the kindred, the growth of this life and rejoice in the magic that cascades and dances around us.

Accept this final offering. May our words and thoughts be carried to your ears.

Eostre, accept this offering!

{All}:

Eostre, accept this offering!

12 The Omen (Laura)

{Speaker}: To the oracle

Oracle, are our offerings accepted?

Oracle, what blessings do The Kindred offer us for this season?

13 Calling for the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker}:

O kindred, we have made you welcome at our fire, we have honored you, and we have gifted you with offerings. From the oracle, we have heard your blessings, and we seal our relationship with the Waters of Life.

14 Hallowing the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.

By the landvaettir and the ancestors, by the AEsir and the Vanir, by the new light and life that has returned to us through Eostre, hallowed are these waters. Offerings we have given, and an offering we have been given in return. Behold the Waters of Life!

15 Affirming the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker, then remaining worshipers}: Raises the horn, speaks then drinks (or pours a small amount in the offering bowl) and passes the horn to the next worshiper.

I accept the blessings of the Kindred.

{Speaker}: Speaks then pauses for a moment.

Let us reflect a moment on the blessings of the Kindred.

16 Workings

Jason, Kalyn and Laura's Initial Oaths

17 Thanking the Kindred (Laura, Nick, Chad)

{Speaker}:

We have given our worship and have been blessed this day by the Kindred. As we move about in our lives, remember that all the worlds are connected through Yggdrasil, and the blessings of the Kindred flow within you.

{Speaker}:

Eostre, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may your touch upon us, help spread your radiance into the world.

AEsir, Vanir, gods of this place, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our relationship with you continue to deepen.

Landvaettir, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may you look kindly on us in our future meetings.

Alfar, Disir, both new and old, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our actions in this world bring honor to you.

We thank you!

18 Closing the Gates (Chad)

{Speaker}:

Hemidall, our worship draws to a close. By your might and ours, let us end what we began.

Let the gates be closed!

{All}:

Let the gates be closed!

{Speaker}:

Let the well be water. Let the fire be flame.

The world has been restored.

19 Thanking the Earth Mother (Susan & Ronald)

{Picture Bearer}: *Walks once around the congregation with the veiled picture while Nerthus is thanked*

{Speaker}:

Nerthus, veiled you came and veiled you go. Just as the earth is mysterious so too are you.

{Speaker}: *Speaks, then empties the well onto the earth.*

From you came this water, and unto you this water shall return.

Thank you, and farewell.

{All}:

Thank you, and farewell.

20 Closing the Rite (Dale)

{Speaker}:

Our time of communion with the Kindred draws to a close, and cares of mundane world began to assert themselves over us once again.

Let us take the blessings of the Kindred, back into the world, and remember our connection to the divine.

We have come together as we have done before and shall do again. Until next we meet, may peace and prosperity be upon you.

{Speaker}: *Rings the bell*

End of Rite