

Summer Solstice - 2014

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1 Offerings

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

- Guardian/Thor: Mead (if available), else beer
- Nerthus: Milk + Grain
- Fire: Incense
- Well: Silver the well
- Tree: Water from the well
- Heimdall: Mead
- Landvaettir: Sage from the garden
- Ancestors: Bread
- AEsir/Vanir: Apple
- Baldr: Sunstone
- Final Sacrifice: Kirschwasser
- Waters of Life: Mead

2 Initiating the Rite

{All}: Participants process in silence to the ritual location and circle around the fire and altar.

{Drummer}: When all participants are situated the drummer performs 9 heartbeats.

3 Outdwellers

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to Thor

Hail Thor! Weilder of Mjölmir, 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 sacrifice and aid us.

4 Purification

{Speaker}: Takes the bowl of water from the altar

Let this water cleanse us. Let it wash away our doubts, our worldly concerns and purify us so we may stand in the presence of the Shining Ones.

{Speaker}: Anoint the participants.

{Speaker}: Leads the group in a grounding meditation

5 Honoring the Earth Mother

{Speaker}: Speaks then places offering in the fire

Oh Goddess Nerthus, we give praise and offerings to you on this day. We thank you for support in our lives and in our rituals. We are the children of Midgard. We remember and honor you.

Nerthus, we call to you and ask for your presence and support in our working today.

Goddess, accept our sacrifice!

6 Statement of Purpose

{Speaker}:

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

Baldr, Odin's son, his light and life was cut short. We remember him this solstice, on the day of the greatest light.

Let us reflect on the light and happiness in our world. Revel in this time of light and warmth for it will not last. This is the eternal cycle of the sun.

7 Recreating the Cosmos

{Speaker}: Moves to the bowl

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. *{Sacrificer}: Silvers the well*

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

Let these herbs sanctify the fire.

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

{Sacrificer}: Gives herbs to the fire

{Speaker}: Moves to the tree or bile

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

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

{Sacrificer}: Gives offering of water from the well to the tree

{Speaker}:

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

8 Opening the Gates

{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 Inviting the Kindred

9.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits

{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 this sacrifice.

{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

{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 this sacrifice.

{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

{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 this sacrifice.

{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

{Speaker}:

Hail Baldr!

You who is the fairest to look upon and fairer yet of tongue, we welcome you.

You who is the most noble and honorable of the gods, we welcome you.

Baldr, we welcome you to our fire, O radiant one.

While you feast in Helheim, know that we haven't forgotten you. We welcome your memory to our fire, if you cannot come yourself.

Today the sun shines long, the longest day of the year. But like all things in nature, it won't last. Today is longer than yesterday, but tomorrow will be shorter. While the sun is long in the sky, and will be for many weeks, daytime will be slowly dying, just as Baldr, the joy, light and happiness of the gods died.

This story begins with a dream, or more correctly a nightmare...

Tell story of Baldr

The story of Baldr isn't over, for, while confined to Helheim, he still exists. Death isn't the end, not even for our gods, and when the time is right, when the world is dark and needs him, he shall return and bring with him the light of hope.

Baldr, accept this offering!

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

11 Prayer of Sacrifice

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to the Kindred

Landvaetter, Ancestors, Shining Ones, Baldr, accept our sacrifices

12 The Omen

{Speaker}: To the oracle

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

{Oracle}: Draws and interprets The Omen

13 Calling for the Blessings

{Speaker}:

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

14 Hallowing the Blessings

{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.

By the landvaettir and the ancestors, by the AEsir and the Vanir, by the light, joy and grander of Baldr, 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

{Speaker, then remaining worshipers}: Raises the horn, speaks then drinks (or pours a small amount on the ground/in the fire) 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

Norse Symbol

17 Thanking the Kindred

{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}:

Baldr, we thank you for sharing our fire, and while we honor you, may the events that herald your return be far in the future.

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

{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

{Speaker}:

Nerthus, we begin with you and end with you. Thank you for being with us at our rite.

Let all that has not been offered, be offered unto you.

{Speaker}: *All unsacrificed offerings, not part of the ritual meal, are now given to Nerthus.*

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

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

20 Closing the Rite

{Speaker}:

We have come together as one people to worship the Kindred as our ancestors did. May we part in peace, understanding and compassion until we next worship together.

This ritual is complete!

{All}: Complete the ritual meal with the Kindred by eating the food that was first gifted to them.

{Sacrificer}: When all worshipers have completed eating, some of the remaining food can be distributed to the animals.

End of Rite