

## Yule Rite State College 2006

Yule, celebrated on and through the winter solstice for 12 days, is the greatest Norse holiday. In ancient times oaths were sworn over a cup of mead or on the bristles of a boar. The Yule log was set out and burnt for twelve days. Today we honor Freyr, bringer of fertility; and Thor to shield us from the winter's might.

In preparation the following symbols and offerings have been assembled:

| Honoree        | Symbol/equipment                | Offering                                |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Earth Mother   | Offering bowl or plate          | Old & New World Grains                  |
| Fire/well/tree | Water bowl, 3 candles, branch,  | silver (coin), incense, bubbles         |
| Land/sea/sky   | Stone, (water bowl as above)    | Grain, sea salt, incense                |
| Heimdall       | Offering bowl or plate as above | Mead                                    |
| Outdwellers    | Plastic cup                     | Beer                                    |
| Bragi          | Offering cup                    | Mead                                    |
| Ancestors      | Offering cup/plate as above     | Bread                                   |
| Nature spirits | Offering bowl or plate as above | Grain                                   |
| Gods           | Offering cup/plate as above     | Mead                                    |
| Frey           | Fire                            | Food and/or Mead                        |
| Thor           | Fire                            | Mead, Strong Beer, other Strong Alcohol |

If you have personal offerings (physical or bardic), tell the Ritual Leader so that (s)he can be inclusive of your contributions

### List of Parts

Ritual Leader (RL)

Offerer to Earth Mother

Frey's Invoker

Thor's Invoker

Bragi's Invoker

Land

Invoker of Nature Spirits

Sea

Invoker of Ancestors

Sky

Invoker of Shining Ones

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Pronunciations of words which may be unfamiliar appear as *phauloughs* [follows] ;-)

## Initiating The Rite

Everyone processes to/walks about the ritual site, singing the following as led by the Ritual Leader:

### We Approach The Sacred Grove (By Sean Miller)

We approach the Sacred Grove With hearts and minds and flesh and bone.  
Join us now in ways of old; We have come home.  
*(Repeat until Procession is ended)*

## Purification

RL asperges everyone with water.

## Honoring the Earth Mother (From a rite by Selene Tawny)

### **Offerer to Earth Mother:**

We give this gift to you Mother **Nerthus**, springing forth this day. [near-thus]  
Look kindly on our work, **Berchta**, grand dame of the wheel, [birk-ta]  
Spin us good *wyrd* this day. [weird]  
O Mighty Mother of us all, Pray, fill our house with joy.  
Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice. (place grain in bowl)  
**All: Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice.**

## Statement of Purpose (bits from a Rite by Kirk Thomas)

**RL:** We gather here to celebrate the Yule, the time of the height of darkness and the return of the sun, a time of feasting and a time to prepare for the new year. As our ancestors did, so do we now. We are here to offer worship to the Freyr, bringer of new things and fertility, and Thor, protector of the people from the forces that would overwhelm them.

So let us join together as one folk to make our offerings in joy and reverence! So be it!

**All: So be it!**

## Bardic Inspiration

**Bardic Invoker:** (pours a cup of mead and holds it forth, as a toast)

**Bragi!**Odinson! [braugh-ee]

Best of the wordsmiths and first of the skalds, You with the tongue of gold,  
Whose words are like the finest mead, I ask you best of bards,  
To inspire me and make my words mix well.  
Bragi, let your inspiration flow! (pours libation to bowl)

**All: Bragi, accept our sacrifice.**

## Re-creating the Cosmos

### Grounding and Uniting with the Two Powers

RL leads the Two Powers Meditation, allowing the group to connect to the Earth and Sky Powers.

## Land, Sea, and Sky

**Land:** (sprinkling grain into bowl)  
By the Fire and Well, let this blessed land be a Holy Place.  
Let the land hold firm and not open up and swallow us.  
**All: Let the land hold firm and not open up and swallow us.**

**Sea:** (sprinkling sea salt into well)  
By the cleansing of Water, let the primal sea be the boundary of this Holy Place.  
Let the Sea not rise up and drown us  
**All: Let the Sea not rise up and drown us**

**Sky:** (blows on stick of burning incense)  
By the Light of the fire, Let the shining Sky be the roof of this Holy Place.  
May the Sky not fall down upon us.  
**All: May the Sky not fall down upon us.**

### Outdwellers

#### **Offerer to the Outdwellers:**

You who come from the outer dark, You who stood against the gods and man,  
You who are cold of heart and cruel of mind, Take this and trouble not our work.  
(pour beer into plastic cup, set at edge.) (\*outdoors, look away from cup and tip it over w/ left  
foot.)

### Fire, Well, and Tree

**Sing Portal Song, Words and music by Ian Corrigan ©Stonecreed Grove, ADF**

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, (offer silver to well)  
Come we now to the Well, the waters of rebirth,  
Come we now to the Well, together we sing:

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky  
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.

We will kindle a Fire, bless all, and with harm to none,  
We will kindle a Fire, and offering pour, (offer oil to fire)  
We will kindle a Fire, a light 'neath the Moon & Sun,  
We will kindle a Fire, our spirits will soar.

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky  
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.

Gather we at the Tree, the root and the crown of all,  
Gather we at the Tree, below and above, (cense tree)  
Gather we at the Tree, together we make our call,  
Gather we at the Tree, in wisdom and love.

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky  
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.

### Opening the Gates

**(First part from a rite by Selene Tawny)**

**RL:** Wondrous Heimdall, watchman of the Gods, Rider of the mighty horse Gulltop,  
We ask thee to open the gates so that we may cross the rainbow bridge  
By thy will, let the gates be opened!!(offers mead)

**All: Heimdall, accept our sacrifice!**

**RL:** Now, Heimdall, Bifrost-warder, join your magic with ours.  
Let the fire open as a gate between the worlds.  
Let the well open as a gate between the worlds.

Let the tree open as a gate between the worlds, and let Heimdall walk with us in all ways.

Let the gates be open!

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

### Inviting The Three Kindreds

**Invoker of Ancestors:** Ancestors, Mighty Dead, Honored ones who came before,  
Celebrate with us on this day. Gifts for gifts, a boon to you; join us now, our connection  
renew.

Ancestors, accept or offering. (offers food)

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

#### **Invoker of Nature Spirits:**

Spirits of the Land, Wild Ones, Allies, Nature's Own Hand.  
Gifts for gifts, a boon to you; join us now, our connection renew.  
Land-spirits, accept our offering. (offers grain)

**All: Land-spirits, accept our offering!**

#### **Invoker of the Shining Ones:**

Shining Ones, Gods and Goddesses, World-shapers true,  
Gifts for gifts, a boon to you; join us now, our connection renew.  
Shining Ones, accept our offering! (offers mead)

**All: Shining Ones, accept our offering!**

### Key Offerings: Honoring the Deities Of The Occasion

#### **Invoker of Frey:**

Frey, protector of the gods,[fray]  
Ingwaz-seed, the chaos of potential,[ing-wahz]

Slain Shining One, still you survive strong.  
Gerdhr-husband and giver of gold,[gerd]  
Gullinbursti battle-boar, Beli-bester Blót[goo'-lin-burst-ee ; beh-li ; blote]  
You who sacrificed sword and stallion,  
I pray that you protect me and my kin,  
That you ward us while it is winter,  
And that you bring us back to bright bounty again.  
(pour libation or place food on altar)  
Frey, accept our sacrifice.  
**All: Frey, accept our sacrifice.**

**Invoker of Thor:**  
Thor, protector of man,  
Thurse-bane, the might of storms,  
Mighty Thunder-bringer, Mjollnir in hand,  
I pray that you protect me and my kin,  
That you ward us while it is winter,  
And that you bring us back to bright bounty again.  
(pour libation or place food on altar)  
Thor, accept our sacrifice.  
**All: Thor, accept our sacrifice.**

### General Praise Offerings

RL offers the opportunity for offerings and invocations by the participants, who then do so.

### Prayer of Sacrifice

**RL:** Now, let our voices arise on the fire; Let our voices resound in the well; Let our call pass the gate to the land of spirits.

Holy kindreds: Gods, Ancestors and Landvettir: The Children of Earth Send you love and honor with this gift.

Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!

**All: Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!**

**Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!**

**Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!**

### Omen

**RL:** Having prayed to the powers, let us open to them, asking what blessings they offer us in return. (RL or participants draws from rune bag, and the rune-omen is interpreted.)

### Asking For The Blessings

(Pour alcoholic cups (also nonalcoholic if any participants are underage or abstaining.))

**RL:** Shining Ones, Noble Ones, and Mighty Ones, we have praised you and received your blessings. Hallow these waters and give to us of your power and inspiration and vitality. Seih den Lebenswassern da! Behold, the waters of life!

**All: Behold, the waters of life!**

(The “water of life” (alcoholic beverage or other as above) is passed and shared.)

### Thanking the Kindreds

**RL:** We have called upon the Kindreds and they have answered! With joy in our hearts we carry their magic into our life and work. Each time we offer to the powers they become stronger and more aware of our needs and worship. So, as we prepare to depart let us give thanks to those who have aided us.

**RL:** Thor, protector,

**All: We thank you!**

**RL:** Freyr, bringer of weal,

**All: We thank you!**

**RL:** Bragi, inspirer,

**All: We thank you!**

**RL:** Heimdall, Bifrost-warder,

**All: We thank you!**

Godden, Nature Spirits, and Ancestors,

**All: We thank you!**

### Closing the Gates

**RL:** Now by the keeper of the gates and by my magic we end what we began.  
Let the fire be flame, Let the well be water, Let the tree be wood.  
Let all be as it was before. Let the gates be closed!

### Thanking The Earth Mother

**RL:** Nerthus, Earth Mother, we walk upon you every day but never forget you. In gratitude for all your gifts, we say:

**All: We thank you!.**

### Closing The Rite

**RL:** We have done as our ancestors have done, and the Kindreds have answered.  
We go now, children of the Earth, in peace and blessings. The ritual is at a close. So sind sie!

**All: So sind sie!**