

Roman Harvest Ritual by Virginia Carper

I. The Procession

Ring Bells

Cover head

II. Purification

Wash Hands

III. The Earth Mother

Ceres Mater,

Earth Mother

Our Mother

Your child offers to You,

My labors

My fruits,

My love,

Receive my offerings.

IV. Statement of Purpose

Harvest Time is here! The Earth is bursting with Her Bounty. We rejoice in her fruitfulness as we harvest our crops.

Ops, Lady Bountiful, Welcome!

Consus, Keeper of the Harvest Stores, Welcome!

Jupiter, Sky Father, Bringer of the Rains, Welcome!

Welcome All! Welcome Harvest!

V. Outsiders

Oh, Lemurs and Others,

I offer this wine to you.

For your enjoyment

Trouble not my ritual.

I offer these puzzles to you,

For your enjoyment

Trouble not my ritual.

Oh Lares, Watchers of the Home
Guardians of the Family
My Juno, My Protector,
I offer this incense to You.
I pray that You will defend
Against things seen and unseen.

VI. Grounding and Centering Take three deep breaths reflect why you are here.

Two Powers Meditation *(by Jenni Hunt)*

From the east, I draw the breath of Eurus;
its rosy glow piercing the darkest of nights.
I exhale its winged morning song into this grove.
From the south, I draw the breath of Auster,
its moist warmth permitting a time of leisure.
I exhale its steamy summer brew into this grove.
From the west, I draw the breath of Zephyrus,
its western shore lit with the fires of inspiration.
I exhale its dusky shimmering sensuality into this grove.
From the north, I draw the breath of Boreas,
its roaring wind sending us home to the warmth of our hearths.
I exhale its icy-tongued blast into this grove.
In this grove, we share all these and each other's breath;
breathing as one at the center.

VII. Affirming the World Order

(Please note that according to the Roman Kin, the Cosmos was Focus (Fire), Mundus (Pit), and Portus (Door).)

Mundus, eye and mouth of the Earth
From where the rivers flow
Gate to all which lies below
I approach you with caution
Carry this rite to those below
That I may receive all Numinae into my rite
I acknowledge You.

Vesta Mater,
Hearth Fire
Home Fire,
Accept my offering.

Vesta Mater,
Working Fire,
Loving Fire,
Hallow this rite.

I stand at the Door in hope and love.
Salve the Portus!
The Doorway between the Worlds!
Carry my prayers to the Worlds beyond.

VIII: Open the Gates

Janus Pater
Opener of Gates
Janus Pater
Keeper of Doors
Janus Pater
You look both ways
Protect me
Open the Doors!
Allow my prayers pass to the Kindreds!

LET THE GATES BE OPENED!

IX. Bardic

Phoebus Apollo
Bringer of Light
Encourager of the Muses
Let me drink the waters of Castalia
Inspire me in my praises,
Inspire me in my offerings
Inspire me in my readings

Bright Apollo,
Bringer of Light.

X. Three Kindreds

Oh, Nature Spirits, Numia who inhabit the world.,
Look upon us with kind eyes.
Help us care for Your world.

Salvete Di Parentes

Ancestors near and far,
Flowers I offer.
I have not forgotten the wine and milk for you!
I pray that you share with me your guidance.

Salvete Capitoline Trio, watching over all things Roman.
Iuppiter Maximus Optimus, Jupiter, Best and Brightest.
Juno, in all Her Aspects
Stern Minerva, Who guides scientists and artisans.

Salvete Dii Consentes

Neptunus of life giving waters.
Mars Silvanus defending the land
Gracious Venus, our Friend,
Apollo Mendicus, the Healer
Diana of the Woods,
Volcanus, Smelter of Metals
Vesta of the Eternal Flame
Mercurius, Fleet-footed Patron of merchants
Ceres Who regenerates the land.

Salvete Dii Indigites,

Ancient Gods of the land and Heroes from long ago
Welcome to my rite.

Welcome Mighty Ones and Holy Powers, may you find hospitality at my fire.

XI. Main Offering

Salve Ops, Goddess of Plenty!

Wealth of the Earth

You provide us with what we need:

Fruits and grains.

Ancient One, long worshipped.

I raise my cup of wine to you.

Salve Consus, God of the Granary!

Protector of the storage bins,

Guardian of our harvest

I honor your watchfulness.

Ancient One, long worshipped.

I raise my cup of wine to you.

Salve Iuppiter Maximus Optimus!

Lord of the Sky

Who speaks to us with thunder and lightning.

Jupiter Pluvius, Bringer of the Rain

Ancient One, long worshipped.

I raise my cup of wine to you.

Ops Mater accept this bread.

Consus accept this bread.

Jupiter Optimus Maxinus accept this wine.

Any praise offerings.

Piacular Offering (*from Jenni Hunt*)

Gods and Goddesses,

Holy Ancestors,

Spirits of this place:

If anything that we have done here has offended You,

If anything we have done here has been incomplete,

If anything we have done here has not been in the proper manner,

Accept this final offering in recompense.

XII. Taking of the Omen

Diviner reads omen

Diviner announces omen

Have the offerings been accepted?

What are the blessings offered to us?

What do the Kindreds want from us?

XIII: Return Blessing

Asking for and Hallowing the Blessings

Oh Kindreds

Lares and heroes

I offered to you and seek your blessings

Dii Parentes and Manes

I offered to you and seek your blessings

Ancient and Mighty Ones

I offered to you and seek your blessings

I ask to know your love

As a gift calls for a gift

From the waters of life come wisdom, health, and wealth.

Affirmation of the Blessings

Behold the Waters of Life!

Holy Ones. Lares, Heroes, Di Parentes

Ancient and Mighty Ones

Grant to me, the blessings I seek

The bright flow of giving turns a circle.

Allow your blessings to flow into this cup,

Let me drink in love, wisdom, and strength

Hallow the waters

Consus, Ops Mater, Iuppiter Maximus Optimus

XIV. Workings

XV. Farewell

The Deities of the Occasion

The Kindreds

Great and Mighty Ones, I remember You.
Valete!

Ops Mater, Gracious Lady of the Earth
I thank You!

Consus, Vigilant Lord of the Harvest
I thank You!

Jupiter Optimus Maximus, Sky Father
I thank You!

Dii Consentes, the Council of Twelve
I thank You!

Ancient and Noble Ones
I thank You!

The Capitoline Trio, watching over us
I thank You!

Mighty Ones!
I Thank You!

Die Manes and Parentes
I thank You!

Lares and Numinae
I thank You!
Valete!

Ancient and Noble Ones
I thank You!
Valete!

Thanking the Bardic Patron

Phoebus Apollo, Thank you for your bardic inspiration.
Hail and Farewell!

Vale!

I ask that You remember me, as I remember You. May our love be an never ending circle.

XVI. Closing the Gates

Let the Gates Be Closed!

Farewell to the Gatekeeper

Janus Clusivius, Closer of Doors

Janus, God of Endings

I thank You!

Hail and Farewell!

Restoration of the Ordinary

Let the Portus be only a door.

Let the Focus be only a fire.

Let the Mundus be only a well.

Regrounding/Centering

Take three deep breaths. Reflect on the work you have done and the blessings you have received.

XVII. Thanking the Earth Mother

Ceres Mater, I thank you for your support and substance. I honor you.

Thanking the Hearth Goddess

Vesta Mater, Lady of the Fire,

I thank You for your warmth, light, and protection.

I honor You.

XVIII. Closing Rite

Closing Prayer: I have honored the Gods and Goddesses, Holy Ancestors and Spirits of the Place.

Musical Signal

IO Harvest!

Chart of sacrifices

God/dess or center	Sacrifice	Where to
Ceres (Earth Mother)	Grain	Pit
Mundus (Well)	Wine	Pit
Vesta (Fire)	Incense	Fire
Portus (Door)	Water	Door
Janus (Gatekeeper)	Door knobs	Door
Apollo (Bard)	Laurel	Fire
Lemurs (Outsiders)	Wine, puzzles	Outside
Numia (Nature)	Seeds	Pit
Ancestors and Heroes	Flowers, wine, milk	Pit
Immortals (Gods)	Incense	Fire
Ops	Grain	Pit
Consus	Bread	Pit
Jupiter	Incense	Fire
Piacular	Wine	Pit