

SONORAN SUNRISE GROVE, ADF

Standard Liturgy Various Pantheons

This script does not contain the ritual phrases in the various hearth culture languages, invocations to Deities of the Occasion, or seasonal customs. In places where a specific Deity name would be used, an underlined blank will appear.

PRE-RITUAL PREPARATION

In the Henge:

The fire is prepared, the well opened, the Offering Bowl placed on the ground in front of the Main Altar and the following items placed on or near the altar:

A standing horn for the Waters of Life, 2 drinking horns, 2 ritual pitchers, bowl for aspersing, a sea shell for the smudge stick, bell, offerings:

Earth Mother - corn meal and dry oatmeal in a small bowl;

Bardic Deity, Fire - Oil in two small glasses;

Well - silver for the well;

Tree - bowl of holy well water;

Gatekeeper - Water in small pitcher for Tree

Apple for Well

Whiskey for Fire

Deities - Whiskey in a small glass;

Ancestors - Corn and tobacco in a small bowl; pork in a small bowl, ghee in a small bowl, apples in a small bowl, hazelnut oil in a small glass, a mini keg of beer and an ax, hazelnut liquor in a small bowl;

Nature Spirits - herbs and oats in a small bowl;

Deity of the Occasion - Three small glasses of whiskey;

Prayer of Sacrifice - A loaf of bread; a knife; ghee in a small bowl;

Piacular Sacrifice - Oil in a small glass; incense;

Final Gatekeeper Sacrifice - Oil in a small glass;

Other Offerings - a small wreath of twigs; Cider or beer or wine for the Waters of Life - also water; small drinking cups; a taper by the fire, and divination tools. A couple of drops of Holy Water are poured into the Well and into any water used in ritual.

At the Guardian Deity's Altar:

A chalice of ale is placed on the Altar.

At the Outdwellers Altar:

A standing horn of ale is placed on the Altar. A small bowl is filled with water from the Well and placed near the Sacred Precinct entry pillars. A sage stick and lighter is placed on top of one of the entry pillars.

Before the Procession begins:

Orator welcomes the people and gives the briefing. This will include creating the Sacred Center and Opening and Closing of the Gates, as well as Praise Offerings. The **Bard** teaches the People any new songs. The **Seer** leads the People in taking a moment to center.

*** PROCESSION ***

Orator meets the People at the crossroads.

Orator says:

Children of the Earth! We meet at the crossroads. Welcome to Summerlands and to the ritual name Service of the Sonoran Sunrise Grove, Ár nDraíocht Féin. Please follow me to the Sacred Precinct.

Orator leads the people while the Lead Drummer creates a rhythmic drumbeat and the Bard leads the People in song as they process to the Outdwellers Altar outside the Sacred Precinct.

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Join Us Now

Words and music by Arlene Davis

Join us now, a people united,
To honor the Old Gods by Tree, Well and Fire.

Join us now, a people united,
To worship together in our Sacred Grove.
Ancestors guide us, Nature surrounds us,
Shining Ones teach us to live strong and free.

Join us now, a people united,
To worship together in our Sacred Grove.

(Repeat until Procession reaches entry to Sacred Precinct)

*** PROTECTION AND PURIFICATION ***

After the People arrive at the Sacred Precinct gates, Orator and Sacrificer purify each other, as well as the drummers and bowl singer, who then go to the Henge to play a heartbeat with singing bowl song to greet the People as they arrive.

CALLING THE GUARDIAN

Warrior goes through the entry pillars of the Sacred Precinct to the altar of the Guardian Deity and makes an offering, pouring ale or wine on the altar, saying:

*Invocation to a Guardian Deity goes here, ending with:
Deity name, accept our sacrifice!*

The People say:

Deity name, accept our sacrifice!

THE OUTDWELLERS

Orator says:

Children of the Earth, as we now prepare to treat with the Outdwellers, look to the Outdwellers in your own hearts. As you enter the sacred precinct, you will be asked if you will release ill will. The appropriate response is, "I release *all* ill will." You will be purified by water and flame. Please avert your eyes while the Warrior treats with the Outdwellers, that we may not form a relationship with them.

Warrior! Treat with those Outdwellers who will not support our ways.

Orator stands at the Gate to the Sacred Precinct.

Warrior says:

Ancient Spirits, dark or light,
You who care not for our way,
Outdwellers! We know Your might -
Your forbearance we'll repay!

We now re-establish here
Sacred ground where You can stay.
Take this horn of darkest beer -
We ask You to keep away!

Bíodh sé amhlaidh! (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

Warrior pours ale for the Outdwellers on the altar.

Warrior goes to the entrance of the sacred precinct.

Orator and Sacrifice smudge and asperse the Warrior.

Orator says:

Children of the Earth! Come forward and be purified as we enter the Sacred Precinct.

Orator asperes while Sacrificer censes the People as they Process through the grove towards the Henge.

The Bard leads the People through the grove to the Henge with Orator and Sacrificer following last. Singing accompanies the People to the Henge.

The People find their places in the Circle of the Henge. Orator and Sacrificer wait at the altar to Brigit until all are seated. Then they sing one verse of "Come We Now As A People" as they walk to the entrance of the Henge. They hold the last note and turn it into a Druid Buzz¹. Orator holds the burning smudge stick and the Warrior carries the bowl of sacred water.

Orator goes to the Well and Sacrificer goes to the Fire. They cense and asperse them, saying:

By the might of the water and the light of the fire, this Grove is made whole and holy.²

They then go to the Tree and cense and asperse it, saying:

By the might of the water and the light of the fire, this Grove is made whole and holy.

They then go to the center of the Circle and say:

By the might of the water and the light of the fire, this Grove is made whole and holy.

¹ Placing the intoning, or Druid Buzz, here is the idea of Nora Ford.

² Stonecreed Grove, ADF

Orator leaves the bowl of Holy Water and Sacrificer leaves the smidge stick on the Main Altar.

*** WELCOME ***

Orator rings bell thrice-three times while saying:

Ancestors! (***rings bell three times***) Nature Spirits! (***rings bell three times***) Shining Ones! (***rings bell three times***)

Welcome! We shall meet here at the Sacred Center when we open the gates to the Otherworlds.

*** THE EARTH MOTHER ***

Orator says:

O Goddess of the warm, moist Earth,
O Holy Mother Deity name! O Mother Earth,
Unfold Your arms that in your warm embrace
We'll know your endless love.

Earth Mother Deity name, we show You honor!

The People kneel and kiss the Earth.

Orator says:

Offerings we make to You, O Greatest of Them All.
We offer Oats, a grain of ancient Eire.
We also offer Corn to You, the fruit of these new lands.

Earth Mother Deity name, accept our sacrifice!

Orator offers the corn meal and dry barley to the Offering Bowl.

The People say:

Earth Mother Deity name, accept our sacrifice!

Orator says:

Now, let us pray with a good fire!³

³ Stonecreed Grove, ADF

Warrior lights the fire as

Sacrificer says:

Earth Mother! We build our fire upon Your bosom, claiming this place as our own.

Rhythmic drumming begins to accompany the Bard.

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Earth Mother⁴

Earth Mother, we honor your body
Earth Mother, we honor your bones
Earth Mother, we sing to your spirit
Earth Mother, we sing to your stones
(repeat until fire is burning bright)

Orator says:

"So be it" in a hearth culture language

The People say:

"So be it" in a hearth culture language

*** PURPOSE AND PRECEDENT ***

Orator says:

We gather here to celebrate the Feast of name of High Day, the time of put in words about this Day.

Sacrificer says:

As our ancestors did, so do we now⁵. We are here to offer worship to name and description of a Deity of the Occasion.

Seer says:

We gather here to offer worship to name and description of another Deity of the Occasion.

⁴ Author unknown

⁵ Stonecreed Grove, ADF

Warrior says:

We also come to offer worship to name and description of Deity if there is a third one.

Sanctifier 1 says:

This is another description of the High Day.

Orator says:

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

"So be it" in a hearth culture language

The People:

"So be it" in a hearth culture language

*** INSPIRATION AND LORE ***

Rhythmic drumming begins to accompany the Inspiration Invocation.

Orator says:

Mighty name of Bardic Deity or Spirit! We ask you for inspiration for our Rite!

Sanctifier 2 takes smoking sage bundle to the Altar of Brigit and censes the image. He returns the incense to the altar from the East entrance and takes his seat. While this is happening,

The Bards invoke the Inspiration, singing:

Spirit Name

(Words by Peggy Kaan, adapted to fit Deity or Spirit)

Spirit Name of the Bards
Blessed Fire of Inspiration
Spark the flames within our hearts
Lead our creative exploration

Spirit Name hear our song
As we give offerings of praise

All Celebrants join in, singing:

Let Your blessings make us strong
That we may serve You all our days.

Sacrificer offers oil to the fire.

The Bard says:

Spirit Name, accept our sacrifice!

The People say:

Spirit Name, accept our sacrifice!

THE LORE

The Storytellers enact the tale of *include the tale or play of the myth of the occasion.*

*** THE GROUP MIND ***

Orator says:

We establish the Three Worlds of the Heavens, Midworld and Underworld when we attune ourselves with their powers, and magnify them within us.

The Seer leads the People in drawing up the earth power into themselves.

Seer says:

O Waters of the Earth, deep and dark,
Arise, primeval powers, fill us now
With all your wondrous possibilities,
That through the Earth our Mother we may ground and join as one.

The Seer leads the People in drawing down the sky power into themselves.

Seer says:

O Fires of the sky, O blinding light,
Descend and crystallize within us all
That spark of order on which life depends,
That through the Sky our Father we may shine and share as one.

"So be it" in a hearth culture language

The People say:

"So be it" in a hearth culture language

The Seer ends the trance and brings the People back to this world.

THE LITANY

Gentle heartbeat drumming begins.

Seer says:

Chaos of the Earth, now fill us.

The People say:

Chaos of the Earth, now fill us.

Seer says:

Order of the Heavens, mold us.

The People say:

Order of the Heavens, mold us.

Seer says:

Join the powers deep within us.

The People say:

Join the powers deep within us.

Celebrants say:

With the merging of these powers let us join as one.

The drumming comes to a stop.

*** RE-ESTABLISHING THE SACRED CENTER ***

THE THREE REALMS

Orator says:

Druids, let us now re-establish the Sacred Center of the Worlds.

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Here We Stand As One

(By Fiona Brigit)

With the Earth beneath our feet,
With the Sky that shelters all,
With the Tree connecting Worlds,
In this place of love and magic
Here we stand as one.

Meanwhile, Seer takes silver and stands in the south.

Sacrificer takes oil and stands between the Tree and the Fire.

Warrior takes the Holy Water and stands between the Well

and the Tree. Orator stands before the Main Altar, facing the

center. Sanctifier 1 takes burning sage bundle and goes to the Bell.

The Lead Drummer begins a strong and rapid beat.

Orator says:

Land and Sea and starry Sky, you surround and sanctify.

Warrior says:

Let the Land hold firm, we pray.

May all ill be turned away!

The People say:

May all ill be turned away!

Orator says:

Land and Sea and starry Sky, you surround and sanctify.

Seer says:

Let the Sea not rise, we pray.
May all ill be turned away!

The People say:

May all ill be turned away!

Orator says:

Land and Sea and starry Sky, you surround and sanctify.

The Sacrificer says:

Let the Sky not fall, we pray,
May all ill be turned away!

The People say:

May all ill be turned away!

Sanctifier 1 rings the bell three times.

WELL, FIRE AND TREE

The Lead Drummer continues the strong and rapid beat. Seer goes to the Well with the silver. Sacrificer goes to the fire with the oil. Warrior goes to the Tree with the Holy Water. Sanctifier 1 also goes to the Tree with the burning sage bundle.

Meanwhile, Orator moves clockwise around the Circle, leading the People in chanting the following 3 times. After the third time, Orator stops, faces center and holds up his arms.

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!⁶
Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

⁶ By Ian Corrigan

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

Seer offers silver to the Well, saying:

Sacred waters `neath our feet,
Unformed powers of the deep,
Fountain upwards now to fill us,
Sacred Well, flow within us!

The People say:

Sacred Well, flow within us!

Orator continues moving clockwise and leads the chant:

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!
Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

At the end of the line, Orator stops, faces center and holds up his arms.

Sacrificer offers oil to the Fire, saying:

Sacred Fire, Light of Heaven,
Power of our transformation,
Create order out of chaos.
Sacred Fire, burn within us!

The People say:

Sacred Fire, burn within us!

Orator continues moving clockwise and leads the chant:

Well and Fire and Sacred Tree, flow and flame and grow in me!

At the end of the line, Orator stops, faces center and holds up his arms.

The Warrior pours water on the roots, and Sanctifier 1 censes the World Tree, saying in unison:

Sacred Tree which joins together
Might of chaos and of order,
Magic maker, strong and ageless.
Sacred Tree, grow within us!

The People say:

Sacred Tree, grow within us!

Sanctifier 2 rings the bell three times. Orator, Sacrificer, Sanctifier 2 and Warrior return to their seats.

*** OPENING THE SACRED CENTER ***

THE GATEKEEPER

The Lead Drummer continues with the beat.

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Gatekeeper, Open The Portals

(By Sue Parker)

Gatekeeper, open the Portals
Between the Gods and Mortals.
Power freely flows
As our magic grows.

The Seer rises and faces the altar of Manannán mac Lir.

Sacrificer takes 3 small glasses of whiskey to the Fire.

Sanctifier 1 takes incense or the burning sage bundle to the Altar of Manannán and censes the image.

The Celebrants leads the People in chanting:

Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

The Seer says:

Mighty God of in-between,
Guiding souls to Summerland,
Opener of Gates unseen,
Help our consciousness expand.

Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Sacrificer offers water to the Tree.

The People say:

Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

The Seer says:

Keeper of the Sacred Gate,
Use Your strong and holy powers.
Let our voices resonate;
Join Your magic here with ours!
Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Sacrificer offers an apple to the Well.

The People say:

Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

The Seer says:

Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

The People say:

Manannán, now aid us here! Boundaries shall disappear!

The Seer says:

Mighty God, O Great Mac Lir! Accept the gifts we offer here!

OPENING THE GATES

Orator brings a staff to the center of the Circle.

Meanwhile, the Bard moves counter clockwise around the Circle, and leads the People in quietly chanting:

Open the Gates, Open the Gates, Open the Gates.....

The chanting, drums and rattles continue. They increase in speed and volume.

Orator holds the bottom of his staff, pointing the top of it at the top of the World Tree. He begins to spin counter

clockwise, faster and faster. When his staff passes the Well, Orator says:

Let the Well open as a Gate!⁷

He continues spinning at least one full revolution.

As his staff passes over the Fire, Orator says:

Let the Fire open as a Gate!⁸

He continues spinning at least one full revolution.

As his staff passes by the Tree, Orator says:

Let the Tree connect the Worlds!⁹

There is a loud drum roll ending in a strong stroke. ALL CHANTING STOPS. The Bard stops, faces center, and holds up her arms.

Orator stops spinning, holds both hands (and staff) in the air and shouts:

"Let the Gates be open" in the hearth culture language

Let the Gates be open!

The People shout:

Let the Gates be open!

After a pause, where all visualize the opening of the portals, Orator says:

Children of the Earth, we are now woven into the fabric of the Otherworlds.¹⁰ Here, the Kindreds can hear our thoughts and know our hearts. Let there be only Truth here.¹¹

*** KINDRED OFFERINGS ***

⁷ Standard ADF phrase

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Nora Ford

¹¹ Ian Corrigan

Orator says:

Druids! Make our Offerings to the Kindreds – the Ancient Ones, the Noble Ones and the Shining Ones.

ANCESTORS

Sanctifier 2 censes the Ancestors altar, then goes and waits by the Nature Spirits altar.

Seer or Guest says:

Ancestors, you Mighty Ones,
Witness now our humble actions.
Kin of heart and Kin of blood,
Ancient Ones, we call you Sacred!
Come unto us now, we pray,
Join us at the Well this day!¹²
Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer makes an offering of beer to the Well.

The People say:

Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Mothers And Fathers Of Old

(Words by Sable)

From far beyond this mortal plane
Mothers and Fathers of Old
We pray that you return again
Mothers and Fathers of Old
To share with us the mysteries
And secrets long untold
Of the ancient ways we seek to reclaim
Mothers and Fathers of Old.

Orator says:

¹² By Kirk Thomas and Arlene Davis

Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Ancestors as they join us here.

After a few moments, Orator says:

Ancestors, we welcome you.

Now we will make our offering to the Nature Spirits.

NATURE SPIRITS

The drums begin again, pounding out a moderate beat. Sanctifier 2 censes the Nature Spirits altar, then goes and waits by the Altar of Lugh.

Sacrificer scatters herbs and bird seed on the ground and Sanctifier 1 hangs any trinkets on the World Tree, while

Bard or Guest stands at the SW side of the Circle, facing the Nature Spirits altar and says these or other words:

All you Spirits of the Land
Be you small or be you grand,
Fin and feather, fur and skin,
Right intent is welcomed in!
Leaf and stone and fairy, too,
Let our Sacred Pact renew!¹³
Land-spirits, accept our sacrifice!

The People say:

Land-spirits, accept our sacrifice!

The Bard leads the People in singing:

Nature Spirits' Call

(Words and music by Nora Ford)

Fur and Feather and Scale or Skin,
All ye spirits are welcome in,

¹³ By Kirk Thomas and Arlene Davis

Leaf and stone and faeries, too,
May we seal our pact with you.

It's the stream of life that flows through us all
The babbling brook is nature spirits' call
Inner weaved to the web of life are we -
Come back to the sacred tree.

Orator says:

Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the
Nature Spirits as they join us here.

After a few moments, Orator says:

Nature Spirits, we welcome you.
Now we will make our offering to the Shining Ones.

DEITIES

***Sanctifier 1 or Guest stands at the Fire and says these or other
words:***

Shining Ones, O Great and Timeless,
Gods and Goddesses, come to us!
You are welcome by our fire,
Let us know what You desire.
Known and unknown Deities
Meet us at the Boundaries!¹⁴
Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer makes an offering of oil to the fire.

The People say:

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

The Bard leads the People in singing:

¹⁴ By Kirk Thomas and Arlene Davis

Hail All The Gods¹⁵

Hail all the Gods, Hail all the Goddesses,
Hail all the holy ones, we dwell together!
Powers of the sky, Powers of the sacred earth,
Powers of the underworld, we dwell together.
Hail all the Gods! Hail all the Goddesses!
Hail all the Gods and Goddesses!

Hail all the Gods, Hail all the Goddesses,
Hail all the holy ones, we dwell together!

Orator says:

Children of the Earth, close your eyes, take a moment, and feel the Gods and Goddesses as they join us here.

After a few moments, Orator says:

Gods and Goddesses, we welcome you.

*** KEY OFFERINGS ***

Orator says:

Oh Ancient, Noble and Shining Ones! Oh, Children of the Earth! May we now all join together to give worship and praise to the Patrons of our rite!

Name of Deity of the Occasion here

Orator says:

Name of Deity, we call upon You!

Orator invokes the Goddess. Sacrificer takes whiskey to the fire. Sanctifier 1 takes the smoking sage bundle to the name of Deity Altar and censes the image.

Orator stands facing the name of Deity Altar and says:

¹⁵ Words: First verse, Paul Maurice; Second verse, Richard Mad Kelly; Bridge section, Gwynne Green. Music: Paul Maurice, Sean Miller, and Gail Williams

The invocation of a Deity of the Occasion goes here

Invocation

Name or title of Deity!

Slake Your thirst with whiskey -
We offer it to You!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

And when the Rite is over, we will grieve to see You go.
O name or title of Deity, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

The People say:

O name or title of Deity, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

Name of Deity of the Occasion here

Seer says:

Daghdha, Great God, we call upon You!

Seer invokes the God. Sacrificer takes whiskey to the fire and Sanctifier takes the smoking sage bundle to the Sigil Altar and censes the image, returning the sage to the main altar.

Seer stands facing the Sigil Altar and says:

The invocation of a Deity of the Occasion goes here

Invocation

Name or title of Deity!

Slake Your thirst with whiskey -
We offer it to You.

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

And when the Rite is over, we will grieve to see You go.
Name of Deity, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

The People say:

Name of Deity, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

*** PRAISE OFFERINGS ***

Orator says:

Does anyone have offerings of praise to make to our Patrons, *Names of Deities*?

If so, come forward and take the wreath. Should you have an offering for the Grove, please place it on the altar.

Sacrificer stands quietly holding the wreath. As a person comes forward to make a Praise Offering, he hands the wreath to that person. When the Praise Offering is done, he takes back the wreath and silently holds it until the next person comes forward.

When the Praise Offerings are finished, Sacrificer takes the wreath, and joins Orator at the fire.

Orator says:

O *Name of Deity*, O *Name of Deity*! O Mighty Kindreds!
Our love, joy and reverence have filled this Wreath of Praise.

Sacred Ones,
Accept our Sacrifice!

Sacrificer puts the wreath in the Fire.

The People say:
Accept our Sacrifice!

*** THE PRAYER OF SACRIFICE ***

THE PRAYER

Orator says:

Oh mighty Kindreds, Your people, the Children of the Earth, stand before you in wonder, joy and love. We have honored You, O Kindreds. We have also honored You, O *Name of Deity*, and You, *Name of Deity*. And now we call to You once more, that you may turn Your faces towards us and show us Your great favor, for You are our Elders in this Earth, and we strive, through **ghosti*, to be worthy of Your love.

See, Holy Ones! We now share a great sacrifice with You!

THE SHARED MEAL

The Sacrificer comes forward and takes the Loaf. She hands it to the Warrior who kneels in front of her, facing the Altar.

Orator says:

O *Name of Deity*, O *Name of Deity*! We offer to You the fatted bull, the potent product of a generous year.

Put in a reference to the High Day and what the Deities bring us.

Thus, we share this meal with You on this, Your feast night. May You always share with us.

Warrior holds the Bull Loaf aloft.

Orator says:

As earth becomes grain
And grain becomes flesh,
So this loaf is the flesh of the Land.¹⁶

¹⁶ By Mark Cantwell

Sacrificer cuts the loaf in half. Seer gives half to the Orator who puts it on the altar.

Sacrificer takes the loaf to the Fire. There should also be ghee at the Fire.

Orator says:

As Earth becomes fat
And fat becomes blood,
So this fat is the blood of the Land.¹⁷

Orator places the loaf in the Fire and Sacrificer pours the ghee on the bread.

Orator says:

O *Name of Deity*, O *Name of Deity*!
May our piety increase Your magic!
May our courage increase Your power!
And may our fertile spirits show the world Your abundance!

Mighty Patrons, accept our sacrifice!

The People say:

Mighty Patrons, accept our sacrifice!

***There is a flourish on the drums, and then
The Bard leads the People in singing:***

The Sacrifice Song¹⁸

Let our voices arise on the Fire,
Let our voices resound in the deep,
Let the Kindreds accept what we offer,
As we honor the old ways we keep.
(repeat once)

¹⁷ By Mark Cantwell

¹⁸ This song was written in collaboration by Ian Corrigan, Skip Ellison, Kirk Thomas and all those present at Muin Mound Madness in 2004

*** THE PIACULAR OFFERING ***

Orator says:

If out of ignorance or faulty memory,
If we for any reason have offended You,
O Kindreds of our People, hear us now.
Accept this offering as recompense,
And know our hearts and our intent are pure.

Sacrificer offers incense and oil to the fire.

*** THE OMEN ***

Orator says:

Seer, what blessings and wisdom do the Kindreds offer us this day?

***While the wreath offering burns,
The Seer takes the Omen. She interprets it, which blessings
have been granted by the Powers. While the Seer is preparing
to read the omen, the Druids prepare the Waters of Life.***

Orator pours mead into the large drinking horn.

***Warrior fills another horn with waters from the Well. They are
hung on their hangers.***

The Seer pronounces the Omen.

*** BLESSINGS ***

The Return Flow

Orator says:

Reach out and touch someone next to you and complete the circle
while we prepare the Waters Of Life.

The People all stand and hold hands in a circle.

***Orator takes Sacred Water in a horn or chalice and stands in
front of the Altar.***

Orator says:

Children of the Earth, all our offerings, all we have done so far in our rite, have led to this moment. This is magic time! We have made offerings to the Powers, and now we shall ask for their blessings in return. Visualize the blessings that each of you desire and need from the Kindreds. See it clearly in your mind's eye. And when we ask for the Waters of Life, when we say, "Give us the Waters of Life", see the blessing you desire descend into the upraised cup like a mist, filling the cup. And when we drink of the Waters, you will receive your blessing. So close your eyes and take a moment to visualize your needs, and the needs of our Grove, that we may all receive the blessings we desire.

The People meditate for a while on their needs and desires.

After a moment, the Orator says:

Children of the Earth, is it your will that this be done?¹⁹

The People say:

It is!

Orator says:

Then I call on You, O Mór-Ríoghain, O Great God Daghdha, O Lugh Lámfhada! I call on you, O Ancient, Noble and Shining Ones! We have sacrificed to you, so we ask for your gifts in return.

Orator elevates the Waters.

Hallow these waters! Bless our lives with Magic, Power and Abundance as we drink of your essence.

Kindreds, we ask you, **give us the Waters of Life!**

The People say:

Give us the Waters of Life!

Orator says:

Once more we ask you, **give us the Waters of Life!**

¹⁹ Standard ADF phrase

The People say:
Give us the Waters of Life!

Orator says:
And one final time we ask, **give us the Waters of Life!**

The People say:
Give us the Waters of Life!

After a pause, Orator says:
An uisce beatha seo. (an ISH-ka BAY-ah show)
Behold the waters of life.

Orator pours holy water in each horn.

Orator and the Sacrificer take the horns of ale; Warrior & Seer take the horns of water. Sanctifier 1 & Sanctifier 2 pass out the cups. Orator & Warrior do East half, Sacrificer and Seer do West half.

The drinking horns are passed. All drink from one or the other horn while the Bard leads the People in singing:

Pour the Waters

By Ian Corrigan

Pour the Waters, share the cup,
Drink your share of wisdom deep.
Strength and love now fill us up,
As the elder ways we keep.

(Repeat until all the People have received the Waters)

Celebrants return to the altar. Sanctifiers have put out cups for each celebrant. The Sanctifiers break off bread for celebrants. Orator pours ale for those who want ale. Sanctifier 1 pours the water. The Sanctifiers collect the cups.

*** THE AFFIRMATION ***

Orator says:

We have drunk of the Waters of Life! The Powers have given us true and wondrous blessings. We affirm the gifts of our Kindreds and acknowledge their power in our lives.

Children of the Earth, do you accept the gifts of the Kindreds?²⁰

The People say:

We accept the gifts of the Kindreds!

*** THE WORKING ***

Any magical workings are done here.

*** CLOSING THE GATES ***

Orator says:

The Mighty Ones have blessed us! So as we prepare to depart, let us give thanks to those who have aided us.²¹

A drumbeat begins and rattles fill the sound.

Sacrificer says:

O Name of Deity of Occasion and some words descriptive of Their blessing, we say,

"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

The People say:

We thank you!

The Seer says:

O Name of Deity of Occasion and some words descriptive of Their blessing, we say,

"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

The People say:

We thank you!

²⁰ Standard ADF Phrase

²¹ Ian Corrigan

Sanctifier 1 says:

Gods and Goddesses of elder days, great Light in our lives, to you we say,

"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

The People say:

We thank you!

Bard says:

Noble Spirits of the Land, our allies in this world, to you we say,

"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

The People say:

We thank you!

Seer says:

Mighty Ancestors, you who stand behind us in wisdom and love, to you we say,

"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

The People say:

We thank you!

Bard says:

Name of Bardic spirit, for bringing Your inspiration to our rite, we say,

"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

Warrior says:

Name of Guardian Deity, Guardian of our Rite,

For your Watching and Warding,

Through magic and arms, we say,

"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

The People say:

We thank you!

Seer says:

Name of Gatekeeper Deity, Keeper of the Gates between, once more we offer to You!

Sacrificer pours oil into the Fire.

Come once more and join Your magic with ours! And for this we say,
"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

The People say:

We thank you!

Orator says:

Now we end what we began.

The drums begin to play and the Bard leads the People in chanting, starting quietly and building in speed and intensity:

Close the Gates.... Close the Gates..... Close the Gates.....

Sacrificer holds the bottom of his staff, pointing the top of it at the top of the World Tree. He begins to spin deosil, faster and faster.

As the staff passes the fire,

Sacrificer says:

Let the fire be flame!²²

As the staff passes the well,

Sacrificer says:

Let the well be water!²³

As the staff passes the World Tree,

Sacrificer says:

Let the Tree return to the Midworld!²⁴

***There is a loud drum roll ending in a strong stroke.
The drumming and rattles stop.***

²² Standard ADF phrase

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

Sacrificer stops spinning, holds both hands (and staff) in the air and shouts:

"Let the Gates be closed" in the hearth culture language

Let the Gates be closed!

The People say:

Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER

Orator says: Earth Mother! We give you all remaining offerings, for what comes from the Earth must surely return to the Earth. For You are the One who sustains us all.

Orator, Sacrificer and Sanctifier 2 make all remaining offerings to the Well, Fire or Offering bowl.

Orator says:

Earth Mother! For upholding the world and granting us Your blessings, we say,

"We thank you in Hearth Culture language" We thank you!

The People say:

We thank You!

*** CONTINUITY AND GROUNDING ***

Orator says:

Once again, we have continued in our traditions, honoring the Gods, Ancestors and Nature Spirits, just as in times of old. We have made sacrifices to our Kindreds and received their blessings in return.

But great energy has been raised within us this day! Let us be grounded once more.

The Seer leads the People in grounding.

*** THE RECESSION ***

Orator then rings the bell thrice-three times.

Orator says:

Please stand and hold hands in this Circle.

Walk with Wisdom, Children of the Earth. This Rite is ended.

"So be it!" in the hearth culture language, So be it!

The People say:

"So be it!" in the hearth culture language, So be it!

The Bard leads the People in singing as they stand holding hands in the Circle. After one time through, the Bard leads the People singing out of the Circle:

Walk With Wisdom

Words and music by Sable

Walk with wisdom, from this hallowed place.
Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall ere embrace.
May strength be your brother, and honor be your kin,
And luck be your lover until we meet again.
(Repeat until Recession is ended)

At this point, a party/potluck is held for the assembled people.