

# *Ostara Ritual*

## **Positions**

**Lead:**  
**Fire-Bearer:**  
**Tree-Bearer:**  
**Well-Bearer:**

**Ancestors:**  
**Nature Spirits:**  
**Gods/Goddesses:**  
**Out-Dwellers:**

**The Omen/Asking the Blessing:**  
**Hallowing the Blessing:**  
**Affirmation of the Blessing:**

## **Requirements**

Fire pit	Well	Tree
Oil	Silver	Seed Ball
Tobacco	Wine / Mead / Juice	Seeds
Out Dweller Offering	Blessings cup	Bell
Ogham and book	Candles	Water on altar
Sage smudge for altar	Incense	Matches or Lighter
Individual Items for empowerment		Key Offering to Deity of occasion

## **Decorative Elements**

Flowers, candles, eggs, seeds, colours (green, yellow, purple)

## **Offerings**

Seeds, cider/mead/wine, oil, fruit/sweets

## Processional

**ALL:** We approach the sacred grove  
With hearts and minds and flesh and bone  
Join us now in ways of old  
We have come home  
We have come home

*(repeat until all are in position)*

*(LEAD DRUID rings the bell three times)*

## Purification

*Druids approach Altar and waif smudge/spritz water  
Guests smudged and Spritzed by **FIRE** and **WELL BEARER***

**LEAD DRUID –  
EARTH MOTHER:** Oh beloved Mother of all;  
From whose starry womb the green earth springs  
You are the Bearer of all Life.  
We pray you bless and uphold this Rite.

*(All kneel and kiss the earth)*

**LEAD DRUID –  
EARTH MOTHER:** So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

**LEAD DRUID -  
SKY FATHER:** Nurturing Father of all;  
From whose breath all life is sustained.  
You are both Guide and Guardian.  
We pray you bless and uphold this Rite.

*(All kiss hands and raise them skyward)*

**LEAD DRUID -  
SKY FATHER:** So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

## Nature and Purpose of the Ritual

The Spring Equinox, Ostara or Alban Eiler/Eilir is one of our two “balance” holidays when night and day are in equal balance. The Spring Equinox allows us to step from the dark into the light half of the year and gives us the first signs of spring in the land.

### Purpose:

Ostara is the time when we recognize the importance of planting, growing, and nurturing new ideas, projects, plans, and plants. We seek balance in our lives and recognize the importance of balancing our activities in the greater landscape to minimize our impact.

### Precedent:

Ostara is a time of creativity, growth and the seeing of new beginnings. It was traditional this time of year to clean house and home with the intent to welcome the new light.

Customarily it was a time to fashion charms to bring good luck and prosperous aspirations to your family. This was often done by painting charms on to eggs. Eggs, as a symbol of what was to be were also part of annual festivities, eggs races, hiding and decorating.

At this time of year it was also customary to bake hot crossed buns which by their circular nature remind us of the ever rotating wheel of the year, life and death, growth and progression and the four directions when crossed N,S,E,W with icing. It also reminds us of the symbol of the sun, which from now til Midsummer will be with us longer each day.

## Creating the Cosmos

**WELL BEARER:** I come upon the veil in love and respect.  
This well, our link to the primal waters of life, portal to the under-realm:  
With silver, I beg thee open.

*(WELL BEARER drops coin into the water and brings arms up to point at the Altar)*

**WELL BEARER:** So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

*(FIRE BEARER raises arms to point up in the air)*

**FIRE BEARER:** I come upon the veil in love and respect.  
This fire, our link to the Gods and Goddesses, portal to the over-realm:  
With oil, I beg thee open.

*(FIRE BEARER pours oil onto the fire and brings arms up to point at the Altar)*

**FIRE BEARER:** So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

*(The TREE BEARER points arms open wide to either side)*

**TREE BEARER:** I come upon the veil in love and respect.  
This tree, our bridge between below and beyond, the road of our  
passage:  
With herbs, I beg thee open.

*(TREE BEARER hangs herbs on tree, then raises arms open wide and brings them together to  
point at the Altar).*

**TREE BEARER:** So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

*(ALL raise arms to point at the Altar, clap together, and open arms wide to form the ritual space).*

### Opening the Gates

**LEAD DRUID:** Mighty Cernunnos, our portals open wide.  
We beseech thee Gate-Keeper to grant us safe passage  
to the other realm.  
Open the way in peace.  
Guide us to the hidden places.  
Protect us on our journey and in our Rite.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

### Offering to the Out-Dwellers

*(OUT-DWELLERS takes the offering plate to the South, passing by the fire)*

**OUT-DWELLERS:** Ancient Dark Ones,  
You who dwell in the outer dark;  
You who stood against the Gods;  
Take this offering and trouble not our work.  
Likewise, we acknowledge in ourselves  
Weakness and perversity;  
Hatred and spite;  
Cowardice and ignorance.  
We contemplate these ills  
And for this time we set them aside.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

## Inviting the Kindreds

*(ANCESTORS takes the offering of oil and places it in the fire)*

**ANCESTORS:** We hear your voices speaking words of wisdom into our unconscious minds.  
Your whispers awaken our dreams, our hearts, our desires.  
You who are our ancestors, you who once walked upon this earth,  
And were a part of our shared life eternal.  
We praise you with all that is sacred in our lives.

*(NATURE SPIRITS takes the offering of seeds and scatters it upon the ground)*

**NATURE SPIRITS:** Spirits of the land and place, creatures of fur, and flesh, and feather.  
We call to you in respect and in peace. Ever welcome and ever revered,  
We ask for your guidance.  
Walk with us now as we cross through the gateway.

*(GODS/GODDESSES takes offering of alcohol and pours it slowly on the ground)*

**GODS/GODDESS:** Patrons and patronesses hearken to us, your children.  
We call to you in the other realm in love and respect.  
Join with us in our work.  
May we know your presence within our grove.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

*(LEAD DRUID makes offering of fruit, cider/mead/wine)*

## Key Offerings: (subject to Deity of the Occasion)

**LEAD DRUID:** We invite **Eostre** to our ritual and hope that She lends her blessing and energies to our ritual.

*(LEAD DRUID place offering in fire)*

**LEAD DRUID:** We invite members and guests to place any offerings they have brought in the fire

## Prayer of Sacrifice

**LEAD DRUID:** Gods and Goddesses,  
Ancestors, Spirits of Nature  
All who come unto this Grove.  
We offer thanks and respect for your presence and aid in our workings.  
Accept this offering with the love and respect of we, your faithful children.  
Guide us, teach us, help us to see and hear you.  
Help us to connect once more as our ancestors once did.

*(LEAD DRUID takes final offering and throws it on the fire)*

## Omens

**THE OMEN:** Gods and Goddesses, ancestors and kindreds.  
With great love and respect we have offered you these gifts and sacrifices  
In accordance with our shared belief and tradition.  
We ask now how they have been received.  
Please grant us a sign of your acceptance.

*(THE OMEN draws and Ogham, reads its meaning, and lays it against the blessing cup)*

**THE OMEN:** We are gladdened by your pleasure.

## Asking of the Blessing

**ASKING:** Gods and Goddesses, ancestors and kindreds.  
In humility and reverence we ask what blessings  
You grant to your children in return.  
Let your will be shown to us.

*(ASKING draws and Ogham, reads its meaning, and lays it against the blessing cup)*

**ASKING:** We accept your wonders and blessings.

## Hallowing the Blessing

*(HALLOWING comes forth and holds the blessing cup aloft)*

**HALLOWING:** Our cup is filled with the blessings you grant us.  
Let it touch the mind, heart, and spirit in each of us.  
May we, the cherished children, grow through its bounty.

*(The cup is then passed from Druid to Druid, each taking a sip)*

## Affirmation of the Blessing

*(AFFIRMATION returns the cup to the Altar)*

**AFFIRMATION:** Gods and Goddesses, ancestors and kindreds,  
We affirm your gifts to us with love and respect.  
We are ever-thankful for these gifts we have received;  
May they carry us forward in our Rite and in our lives.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

## Workings

*(LEAD DRUID will lead the group in Meditation.)*

## Meditation

*A point of perfect balance on the journey through the Wheel of the Year. Night and day are of equal length and in perfect equilibrium - dark and light, masculine and feminine, inner and outer, in balance. But the year is now waxing and at this moment light defeats the dark. The natural world is coming alive, the Sun is gaining in strength and the days are becoming longer and warmer. The gentle whispered promise of Imbolc is fulfilled in the evident and abundant fertility of the Earth at Ostara. It is time for the hopes of Imbolc to become action. The energy is expansive and exuberant. It is the first day of Spring!*

*Ostara takes its name after the Germanic goddess, Eostre/Ostara, who was traditionally honoured in the month of April with festivals to celebrate fertility, renewal and re-birth. It was from Eostre that the Christian celebration of Easter evolved, and indeed the naming of the hormone Eostrogen, essential to women's fertility. The Goddess Ostara has the shoulders and head of a hare. The Symbols of Ostara are: the hare and eggs.*

*Once upon a time the Animal Kingdom gathered together for a meeting in a flurry of great excitement. There was to be a Very Special Party and a Very Special Guest was coming to visit them. The Very Special Guest was none other than the Goddess herself, and every creature wanted to give her a Very Special Gift.*

*Now some of the animals were very rich and some were very poor but off they went to prepare their gifts, for only the very very best would do for the Goddess. Hare was very very excited, he dearly loved the Goddess and although he was very poor he had a big generous heart - he was going to give her the very finest gift he could find!*

*Hare rushed home to see what he could find to give to the Goddess - he looked everywhere, in the cupboards and under the bed but there was nothing, even the larder was empty, he had absolutely nothing to give Her. Except for one thing. On the shelf in the larder was a single egg. And that was it. It was the only thing he had left. Hare gently took the egg out of the larder and lovingly decorated it and took it to the party.*

*Hare was very worried, all the other animals gave their gifts of gold and silver and precious jewels and all Hare had was the egg. Eventually all the gifts had been given and Hare was the*

*very very last. Hare very shyly presented the Goddess with the egg. She took it and looked at him and saw the true spirit of Hare. And there and then the Goddess appointed Hare as her Very Special Animal - because Hare had given away everything he had.....*

### **Thanking Beings**

**LEAD DRUID:** (THE GODS OF THE RITUAL)

**GODS/GODDSS:** Gods and Goddesses, your strength is our strength.  
We thank you for your presence in our Rite and on our journey.  
You are ever-welcome in our lives.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

**NATURE SPIRITS:** Spirits of place, friends of fur and feather,  
You who dwell in the untamed lands.  
We thank you for your presence in our Rite and on our journey.  
You are ever-welcome in our lives.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

**ANCESTORS:** Ancestors, you who inspire and move us forward.  
We thank you for your presence in our Rite and on our journey.  
You are ever-welcome in our lives.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

### **Closing the Gates**

*(BEARERS in position once again. ALL standing with arms wide.)*

**LEAD DRUID:** Mighty Cernunnos, all that we have done is by your aide.  
We offer you our thanks.  
Now we ask you to let the doors swing closed once more.  
I ask for your help in closing the gates.  
May the tree once more be tree, the well be water, and the fire merely flame.

Let the Gates be closed.

*(ALL bring their hands to a clap, and let their arms fall to their sides).*

## Close of Ritual

**EARTH MOTHER:** Earth Mother, you granted us this life  
And we walk in your fertile bounty.  
May we always remember to honour your gifts each day.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

**SKY FATHER:** Sky Father, you sustain our lives  
And we grow from your inspiration.  
May we always remember and honour your gifts each day.

So say we all.

**ALL:** So say we all.

*(The LEAD DRUID rings the bell three times. The ritual is ended).*

**LEAD DRUID:** Our Ritual is ended. We thank you all.