

AN AMERICAN RITE FOR PANTHEACON

By Rev. Kirk Thomas

Offerings:

Purification - Censing and Asperging - incense and Holy Water

Spirits of Place - apple

Outdwellers - a bottle of beer or whiskey

Earth Mother - oats and corn meal

Bardic Ancestor, Emily Dickenson - hazelnut oil

Well - silver

Fire - hazelnut oil

Tree - incense and Holy Water

Gatekeeper Liberty - whiskey

George Washington - port or Madeira wine

Abraham Lincoln - root beer

Susan B. Anthony and All Ancestors - water

Land Spirits - grain

Prayer of Sacrifice - whiskey and bread

Piacular Sacrifice - incense

Waters of Life - water in a large cup; a sprig for asperging

Magic Working - small stones

Liberty (magic working) - whiskey

Liberty (Gatekeeper) - whiskey

PRE-RITUAL CLEANSING and SACRIFICE - *After the Hallows have been set up, but before the folk have gathered for the Rite, the room is asperged and censed by six Celebrants (three Water, three Fire), with the following charm spoken:*

Presiding Druid (_____) **leads the Celebrants in saying:**

PD: By the Might of Water

All: By the Might of Water

PD: By the Light of Fire

All: By the Light of Fire

PD: By our Kindreds' magic

All: By our Kindred's magic

PD: By Their strength and power

All: By Their strength and power

PD: We make this room a holy place defended by our Gods. So be it!

All: So be it!

PD: Spirits of this Place! We sacrifice to You, we appease You, that Your wills may align with ours, and the intentions of our Rite.

Spirits of this Place, accept our sacrifice!

All: Spirits of this Place, accept our sacrifice!

PD offers an apple to the offering bowl.

PRE-RITUAL BRIEFING – (_____) – *Once the folk have gathered, a short overview of our cosmology and intentions of ritual is given.*

The folk wait outside of the ritual space as the following takes place:

OUTDWELLERS

Presiding Druid (_____) **says:**

Let us now make offering to those Spirits outside our Ken, that they trouble us not. Please look away, so that we do not form a relationship with the Outdwellers.

Outdwellers Offering – (_____) *holds beer with left hand, and looks away. When the charm is done, the bottle of beer is left behind to be poured out later.*

O, You of malice or indifference,
Injured natives of this land, or
Red Coats reddened more with blood,
Since You may care not for our ways,
We'll make a deal with You.

This place is sacred to our Gods,
Defended by Their love and might –
Our meso-cosmos ordered well.
But your hard lessons make us strong,
And teach us wisdom true.

We have a beer to offer now -
Please take it graciously.

(sets beer on the ground)

And in return we ask of you
To give us peace this special day (pause)

To stay beyond our sounding drums (pause)

And trouble not our Rite.
So be it!

All: So be it!

PROCESSIONAL and CHANT

PD: Children of the Earth, let us now enter our Nemeton!

All sing:

We Approach the Sacred Grove (Words and music 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!

*** MUSICAL SIGNAL ***

(The Presiding Druid rings a bell three times, then says:)

Ancestors!

(The Presiding Druid rings a bell three times, then says:)

Spirits of the Land!

(The Presiding Druid rings a bell three times, then says:)

Shining Ones! We will meet You in the Sacred Center when we open the
Gates to the Other Worlds.

So be it!

All: So be it!

***EARTH MOTHER* (_____)**

(Oats and Corn are given to the offering bowl after the invocation is spoken.)

Oh Goddess of the warm, moist Earth,
Oh Holy Mother Gaia,
Unfold Your arms that in Your warm embrace
We'll know Your endless love.

Earth Mother, we show you honor!

(Everyone kneels and kisses the floor)

Offerings we make to You, O Mother of us all!
We offer oats, the grain of ancient Europe.
We also offer corn to you, the fruit of this new land.

Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

All: Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

Earth Mother Chant (Author unknown)

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!

INSPIRATION

Presiding Druid says:

Let us now call our Ancestor, the great poet, Emily Dickenson, to grace us with her presence and to grant us inspiration for our rite.

Bard:

“You cannot put a fire out;
A thing that can ignite
Can go, itself, without a fan
Upon the slowest night.”
(By Emily Dickenson)

Bard says:

Emily!
Poetess!
Ancestor!
Prolific Lady of visions clear!

We call on you,
We remember you,
We glorify your great talents poetic!

Grant us your favor,
Join our celebration,
Bless us with the fire of your boundless inspiration!

Lady Emily, accept our sacrifice! (*gives hazelnut oil to the fire*)

All: Lady Emily, accept our sacrifice!

PURPOSE AND PRECEDENT

Presiding Druid says:

Children of the Earth, we are here to do as our Ancestors did, to make our sacrifices to the Kindreds and to receive Their blessings in return.

On this weekend of celebration for our American Presidents, we wish to honor and worship our Founding Fathers and those of our land who have shaped us to be a great nation on this Earth.

And so we call upon this Power of the Thirteen colonies which joined together as one folk to form this land of freedom and liberty. May it always be so.

Now let us also join together to make our sacrifices in joy and reverence. So be it!

All: So be it!

RE-CREATING THE COSMOS

The Three Worlds

Presiding Druid says:

Children of the Earth, we awaken ourselves to the Heavens, Midworld and Underworld when we attune to their powers and magnify them within us.

The Two Powers meditation is performed by the Seer, interspersed with the three prayers spoken by the Presiding Druid.

Seer leads the People in centering themselves. When this is done,

Presiding Druid prays:

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.

Seer leads the People in drawing the Earth Power up into themselves. When this is done,

Presiding Druid prays:

O, Fires of the Sky, bright and hot,
Descend and crystallize within us now
That spark of order on which life depends,
That through the Sky, our Father,
We may shine and share as one.

Seer leads the People in drawing the Sky Power down into themselves. When this is done,

Presiding Druid prays:

You Powers dark and light, you liquid fire,
Conjoin and blend this mixture volatile,
That Powers great will merge within ourselves,
Connecting all the Worlds,
So that the axis is complete.

So be it.

All: So be it.

CONSECRATING THE HALLOWS

WELL (_____)

Waters of Chaos,
Powers of Earth,
Ancestors' Gateway,
Halls of Rebirth,

Carry our words to the Isles of the Blest,
Make your great power in us manifest.

O Sacred Well, flow now within us! *(This line is ADF traditional)*

(Silver is offered to the Well)

All: O Sacred Well, flow now within us!

FIRE (_____)

Fire of Heaven,
Hearth fires' blessing,
Gate of the Gods,
Order possessing,

Carry our words to the Great Shining Sky,
Let your great power in us purify.

O Sacred Fire, burn now within us! *(This line is ADF traditional)*

(Oil is offered to the Fire)

All: O Sacred Fire, burn now within us!

TREE (_____)

Maker of ways,
Breaker of boundaries,
Joiner of Worlds,
Bringer of mysteries,

Pierce all the Worlds, up above and below,
And offerings to all our Kindreds shall go!

O Sacred Tree, grow now within us! *(This line is ADF traditional)*

(Bile is censed and asperged)

All: O Sacred Tree, grow now within us!

CALLING THE GATEKEEPER

Gatekeeper Chant (Words by Sue Parker, music by Richard Mac Kelly)

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

PD says:

Liberty! Gatekeeper Goddess of this Land! We call upon You now!

Gatekeeper Invocation

(_____) **says:**

Liberty, we do implore, lift Your lamp beside the door!

Celebrants say:

Liberty, we do implore, lift Your lamp beside the door!

(_____) **says:**

Goddess of the in-between,
Guiding souls for this great Land,
Opener of Gates unseen,
Help our consciousness expand!

Liberty, we do implore, lift Your lamp beside the door!

Celebrants say:

Liberty, we do implore, lift Your lamp beside the door!

(_____) **says:**

Keeper of the sacred Gate,
Use Your strong and holy powers,
Let our voices resonate,
Join Your magic here with ours!

Liberty, we do implore, lift Your lamp beside the door!

Celebrants say:

Liberty, we do implore, lift Your lamp beside the door!

(_____) **says:**

Goddess Liberty! Accept our sacrifice!

(Whiskey is given to the Fire.)

All: Goddess Liberty! Accept our sacrifice!

OPENING THE GATES

The Celebrants lead the People in chanting:

Open the Gates! Open the Gates! Open the Gates.....

PD opens the Gates: *(Traditional ADF wording for charm)*
(He spins anti-clockwise with his staff)

Let the Well open as a Gate!

Let the Fire open as a Gate!

Let the Tree Connect the Worlds!

Let the Gates be open!

All: Let the Gates be open!

PD says:

Children of the Earth, we are now woven into the fabric of the Cosmos. Here the Kindreds can hear our thoughts and know our hearts, so let there be only truth here.

So be it.

KINDRED OFFERINGS

PD says:

Children of the Earth! Let us make sacrifice to the Kindreds – our Ancestors, the Spirits of This Land, and our Gods and Goddesses!

Who offers to our Ancestors?

ANCESTORS

Washington

(_____) **says:**

Founder!

First President!

Explorer of undying fame!

Soldier tough, true and tenacious,
Freedom inspired, Forged in winter's Valley!
We pray you hear our call!

Once again, great man, your wisdom is needed -
Protecting our Freedom, you would not be King.
Join us, be with us, and aid us again.

O Mighty Washington, here is our gift!

(Madeira is given to the offering bowl)

Accept our sacrifice! Join us here now!

All: Accept our sacrifice! Join us here now!

Lincoln

() says:

Thinker!
War President!
Great Emancipator!

Leader caring, kind and compassionate -
Of, by and for the Folk,
We pray you hear our call!

Once again, great man, your wisdom is needed -
Fighting to hold us together, you died.
Join us, be with us, and aid us once more.

Compassionate Lincoln, we offer to you.

(Root beer is given to the offering bowl)

Accept our sacrifice! Join us here now!

All: Accept our sacrifice! Join us here now!

Susan B. Anthony and All Ancestors

() **says:**

Crusaders!
Suffragettes!
Freedom's defenders!

Susan B. Anthony! All Ancestors, see us!
We are the nation that grew from your deeds.

Once again, Old Ones, your wisdom is needed -
Protecting our rights, you showed us the way.
Join us, be with us, and aid us, we pray.

Unconquered Ancestors, we give to you!

(Water is given to the offering bowl)

Accept our sacrifice! Join us here now!

All: Accept our sacrifice! Join us here now!

PD says:

Children of the Earth, close your eyes for a moment, and see, feel and hear George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, and all of our Ancestors come and join us in our Nemeton.

(There is a short pause here)

Ancestors, we welcome you.

All: Ancestors, we welcome you.

PD says: Who offers to the Spirits of this Land?

NATURE SPIRITS

(_____) **says:**

O Spirits of this awesome Land,
You Redwoods, rivers, seas of grass,
And beaches of the finest sand,

You smallest flower, broadest oak,
You cactus sharp, you fragile moss,
You legions of our fairy folk,

We call upon you now!

You dryads in our streams and trees,
You totems who have led the way,
Far-seeing raptors, buzzing bees,

This land you well endow.

Although we give here farmers' grain,
It's not enough.
Let's not fool ourselves.
We promise that we'll change our selfish ways,
And guard the land to ease your pain.

So let this be our vow.

Land spirits, accept our sacrifice!

(grain is given to the offering bowl)

All: Land Spirits, accept our sacrifice!

PD says:

Children of the Earth, once again close your eyes, and see, feel and hear the Spirits of this Land come and join us in our Nemeton.

(There is a short pause here)

Land Spirits, we welcome you.

All: Land Spirits, we welcome you.

PD says: Who offers to the Gods and Goddesses of our people?

DIETIES

(_____) **says:**

Justice!
Freedom!
Commerce!
Liberty!
Shining Ones, hear us!

Scales balance, unseeing,
Free actions, bestowing,
Deep poverty, fleeing
And tyrants, unknowing.

You who are callable,
Known and unknowable,
Offerings givable
We make to You.

Justice! Straightforward, clear and unyielding.
Freedom! Responsible, open and fun.
Commerce! When balanced, you lift up the people,
Liberty! Goddess, You light up the world!

Gods and Goddesses, we give to You!

(whiskey is given to the offering bowl)

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

All: Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Chant - Hail All The Gods (Words by Paul Maurice, Richard Mac Kelly, Gwynne Green. Music by Paul Maurice, Sean Miller and Gail Williams)

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!

PD says:

Children of the Earth, once again close your eyes, and see, feel and hear the Shining Ones as they join us in our Nemeton.

(There is a short pause here)

Shining Ones, we welcome you.

All: Shining Ones, we welcome you.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

PD says:

Gods and Goddesses of this great Land; Mighty Ancestors, noble and true;
You Nature Spirits who live all around us -

We have made sacrifice to you all, we have acknowledged in our hearts our true relationships with You, for You are our Elders in this world. Turn Your faces towards us once more,* look upon us, we pray, that we may feel the heat of Your power.

We now gather together all that we have done, all energies that we have raised, and join them together in one great sacrifice to You all!

(Presiding Druid raises whiskey and bread)

Mighty Kindreds!

May our piety increase Your magic,
May our courage increase Your power,
And may our fertile spirits show the world Your abundance!

Mighty Kindreds all, accept our sacrifices!

All: Mighty Kindreds all, accept our sacrifices!

(Presiding Druid gives the whiskey and bread to the offering bowl)

* Ian Corrigan

PIACULAR SACRIFICE

PD 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 that our intents, and hearts, are pure.

So be it.

(PD offers incense to the Fire)

THE OMEN

PD says:

Seer, what wisdom and blessings do the Kindreds offer us in return for our sacrifices?

(Seer leads the Folk in an intoning or sings a charm. When this is done, the Seer pulls and pronounces the Omen)

THE RETURN FLOW

PD says these or other words:

Children of the Earth, all that we have done before has led up to this moment.

Think of what you most truly need, of what our community and country most truly need, and see those results as a mist in the air above me. And when we call for the Water of Life the third time, see that mist descend and fill the cup with the blessings of the Kindreds.

The Calling

(Presiding Druid holds the cup in front of him)

Mighty Kindreds! O Ancient, Noble and Shining Ones! We have made our sacrifices to You, and now we ask for Your blessings in return.

The Hallowing

(Presiding Druid raises the Cup high)

Hallow these Waters! Grant that we may be filled with magic, power and abundance as we drink of Your essence.

Ancestors, we ask You,
Give us the Waters!

All: Give us the Waters!

PD says:

Nature Spirits, we ask You,
Give us the Waters!

All: Give us the Waters!

Shining Ones! Once more we ask,
Give us the Waters of Life!

All: Give us the Waters of Life!

(Presiding Druid slowly lowers the Cup, seeing the Power of the Kindreds filling it as he does so)

PD says:

Behold, the Waters of Life!

(The Presiding Druid asperges the People with the Waters, while all sing)

Chant – We Are a Circle Moving (© Marae Price)

We are a circle moving,

One with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!

We are a circle moving,
One with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!

I am Spirit and I flow in You.
You are Spirit and You flow in me.

We are a circle moving,
One with another, we are
Moving together, we are one!

(Repeat as necessary until all have been asperged)

The Affirmation

PD says:

As our Ancestors did, so have we done now. We have made our sacrifices to the Kindreds and received Their blessings in return. Indeed, They have given us their true and wondrous blessings!

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

All: We accept the gifts of the Kindreds!

PD says:

As do I.

THE WORKING

(Chaos Magic Sigil Working)

(_____), **as Magician, says:**

Children of the Earth, now that we have been filled with the blessings of the Kindreds, we are at our most powerful.

The original Thirteen Colonies, the great Power of Thirteen, when they came together as a nation, decreed that there should be no state religion. Since then, we have erected a wall between church and state, to protect us all.

We, as Pagans, see those forces in our country that would try to weaken these religious freedoms inherent in our Constitution. Let us call on the Goddess Liberty to strengthen our resolve, and the resolve of all fair minded

people, to keep religion, any religion, out of our government. And then let us use our wills to aid in this effort.

Does this sound like a plan?

(assuming all agree, Magician continues)

Then let us make offering to Liberty!

Goddess Liberty,
You who watch over the rights of all people,
We pray that you keep liberty alive in our nation,
That you strengthen all who would help us stay free,
And defeat those that would enslave us to their Gods.

Goddess Liberty,
Accept our sacrifice!

(Magician offers whiskey to the Fire)

All: Goddess Liberty, accept our sacrifice!

(The celebrants begin handing out the small stones to the People present. Magician continues)

Take these stones and hold them in your hands, and as we do our working, let them charge with our intent. Take them home with you, and keep them safe.

So let us make a sigil working now. We shall form a nonsense chant out of our intent and release our power into the cosmos, but when we are done, we all must forget the chant and intent, so that our magic can flow freely through the cosmos, unhindered by our thoughts.

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

All: It is!
Then this is our intent: *(Magician speaks the intent)*

And this is our chant: *(Magician teaches the chant)*

Now let us begin!

(Magician goes to the center, chanting and spinning, as those celebrants, who are able, walk clockwise around him, teaching the chant to the people. When the chant has firmly grabbed hold, the celebrants also start spinning.)

They carry the power raised by the people and feed it to the Magician. When s/he reaches gnosis, s/he will shout and fall to the ground. The celebrants then release their power, shout, and fall to the ground also.)

The shout: Liberty!

THANKING THE BEINGS

(Normally, the person who called to the Spirit originally should be the one to thank that Spirit)

PD says:

Children of the Earth, we have done as our Ancestors did – we have made sacrifice and received our Kindreds’ blessings. But as we prepare to depart, let us give thanks to Those who have aided us.

Magician (_____) says:

Lady Liberty, for aiding us in our work, we say, we thank You!

All: We thank You!

(_____) says:

Justice! Freedom! Commerce! Liberty! Gods and Goddesses of Elder Days, for honoring us with Your presence we say, we thank You!

All: We thank You!

(_____) says:

Spirits of this mighty Land, we say, we thank You!

All: We thank You!

Bard (_____) says:

Emily Dickenson, great American poet! For granting us inspiration for our rite, we say, we thank You!

All: We thank You!

(_____) says:

Liberty, we make another offering to You.

(whiskey is offered to the Fire)

We thank you for Your help, for joining Your magic with ours, that we might access all the Worlds. And now we ask for Your aid in ending that which we have done.

CLOSING THE GATES (___Kirk___)

The Celebrants lead the People in chanting:

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

PD says: (ADF traditional)

(He spins clockwise with his staff)

Let the Fire be flame!

Let the Well be water!

Let the Tree return to the Midworld!

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

PD says:

Children of the Earth, once more we are nestled in the Midworld and in the arms of Mother Earth.

So be it.

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER

(_____) **says:**

O Goddess, without whom we would always thirst,
O Goddess, without whom we would always hunger,
O Goddess, without whom there could be no life,
Your children thank You with all our hearts.

Mother Earth, for upholding the World and granting us Your blessings,
we say, we thank you!

All: We thank You!

GROUNDING AND CENTERING

PD says:

Seer! Great power has been raised this day. Please ground us all once more.

(The Seer reverses the Two Powers and grounds the People)

ENDING THE RITE

The Blessing

PD says:

As we go out into the World, we do so in full knowledge that we have fulfilled the old bargain** with the Kindreds once again. And so, Children of the Earth, may we all carry the blessings of our Ancestors, Spirits of the Land, and of our Gods and Goddesses.

So be it.

All: So be it.

** Julian Greene

The Musical Signal

(Presiding Druid rings the bell 9 times)

PD says:

Walk with wisdom, Children of the Earth, this rite is ended!

PD shouts:

*Ghosti!

All: *Ghosti!