

**Oestre 2006**  
**Sassafras Grove, ADF**  
**Waldorf School of Pittsburgh**  
**March 20, 7 PM**

**I. BEGINNING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUPMIND – FIRST TIER**

A. Clear-cut Beginning (Consecration of Time)

1. Musical Signal  
The Nine Knells (XXX, XXX, XXX)
2. Opening Prayer: **Earrach**  
We have come to honor the Blessed Ones !

B. Consecration of Space and of Participants

1. The Processional (*Come We Now As a People*)
2. Purifications –Blessers onsite
3. The Warding of the Site / the Acknowledgment of the Outsiders –**Earrach**

4. Invocation to the Spirit of Inspiration or Bardic Patron- Woden – **Alaric**

Woden, wandering,  
One-eyed,  
Word-lord,  
Wind-lord,  
Wolf-lord,  
Wondrous wyrd!

From Middle Earth we call to you;  
Rune-father,  
Mead-winner,  
Inspiration of men.

Let our songs be sweet,  
Our hearts be steadfast,  
Our voices be strong with eloquent praise.

Give us your blessing!  
Give us your grace!

Woden, wandering,  
One-eyed,  
Word-lord,

Wind-lord,  
Wolf-lord,  
Wondrous wyrd! (*Adapted from various sources*)

6. Remembering Brighid - **Dave**

7. Centering, Grounding, and Merging - **Felicia**

- a) Ground and Center
- b) Merge into a grove

8. Declaration of Intention & Historical Precedent - **Maria**

- a) Remember the moment of the Spring Equinox and its impact on us as the seasons change
- b) Remember and honor Oestre as the goddess who opens the Eastern gates and makes ready the way for new growth
- c) Remember and honor Nerthus as the Earth Mother who, warmed by Oestre's rays arises to new life to bring bounty

## II. RECREATING THE COSMOS & PRELIMINARY POWER RAISING – TIER TWO

**Maria:** As our ancestors before us, we now reestablish our World in the midst of the Chaos and ask the sacred questions...

**Earrach** Who are we? From whence do we come? What is the story of our people?

**Emerald:** Not hard...

A great misty cloud had gathered together in the void  
Swirling and spiraling; spiraling and swirling  
Drawing ever-in upon itself.  
At its center a radiance shone forth  
And drove outward the surrounding cloud  
gathering the waters together here below.  
And so it was that the stuff of creation drew apart  
To form the Fire Above  
And the Waters Below.  
The Solar Fire warmed the Cauldron of Creation  
And stroked upon its waters with thunderbolts  
And begat upon it Life.

*Maria and Earrach approach the Hallows*

*Maria Lights the bile,  
Earrach makes offerings to the Well  
and decants Sacred Waters*

And the Life begat the Creatures  
And the Creatures begat the Ancestors  
And the Ancestors begat Us; the Living People.  
Upright, like you, Great Tree  
We bear upon us the mark of Creation  
Then, now, and for all time.

*Maria censes bile. Earrach anoints it with  
Sacred waters*

Rooted in the ancestral waters of the World Below,  
Spanning this Middle-World of form  
And reaching ever-upward to embrace the Fire Above.”

Sacred Tree, Grow Within Us!

All repeat

The Well; the Fire; the Sacred Tree  
Flow and flame and grow in me!

All repeat

2. Creating the Threshold - **Diana**

3. Evoking the Gatekeeper – **Oestre -Diana**

B. Filling Out The Cosmic Picture: The Kindred Invocation Triad...

1. We remember and invite-in the Dwellers in the Three Worlds

Three people making invocations step forward.

- a) make invocation
- b) step to hallows to make offering
- c) return to triad

Order of invocations

Worldly Spirits - Paul

Ancestors - Don

Deities - Alaric

2. Settling and Focusing - **Maria**

### **III. MAJOR SENDING OF POWER TO THE DEITY(IES) OF THE OCCASION-TIER THREE**

A. Invocation to the Deity of the Occasion - **Nerthus**

1) Diana, Felicia and Paul will set up Nerthus altar in the center of the circle.

- a) lay a cloth
- b) uncover bowl to reveal dirt, eggs, bulbs
- c) Arrange and light taper candles
- d) place copy of Earth Mother prayer

2) As this is happening - Maria speaks an invocation intro

3) Maria and Emerald lead folks in singing : “Earth Mother we call you, spring is here it’s time to waken”(by Diana Paar)

4) Just as the song begins –

- a) Earrach goes to the chapel where the Nerthus icon is resting
- b) Earrach brings her into the auditorium (At this point, Emerald begins the chant  
“Earth Mother, We Honor Your Body”
- c) Earrach carries Nerthus around the circle allowing each person a moment of veneration
- d) Earrach sets Nerthus in the place prepared for her in the bowl of dirt center of the room
- e) Emerald and Maria will bring the song down

- f) Maria Reads Wassail prayer
- f) Earrach reads the Earth Mother Prayer

B. Offerings and Primary Power-Raising:

- 1) Invitation to personal praise offering. Pass the stick
- 2) Emerald leads people to think about what they can do to honor the Earth and leads us in dance During the dance all sing

*The Earth she is singing, o ma ma ma*

*The Earth she is dancing, o ma ma ma*

*The Earth she is laughing, o ma ma ma*

*The Earth she's our Mother, o ma ma ma*

*O ma ma ma hey, o ma ma ma*

*O ma ma ma hey, o ma ma ma*

*O ma ma ma hey, o ma ma ma*

*O ma ma ma hey, o ma ma ma*

C. Seeking the Omen of Return

- 1) At an appropriate during the dance, Maria will cut out, go to the main hallows and draw the runes
- 2) As soon as the dance finishes and everyone is calm, Maria will pronounce the omen

#### IV. RECEIVING AND USING THE RETURNED BLESSINGS/POWER – TIER FOUR

A. Preparation for the Return: **Maria**

- 1. Meditation on Personal and Group Needs

- 2. Induction of Receptivity - **Earrach**

Earrach leads a meditation focusing on the rising waters, released from icy chains of winter to flow freely etc...

B. Reception of Blessings / Power from the Deity(ies) of the Occasion - **Earrach**

- 1. Consecration Agreement - 'the Worship Bargain'

“We have remembered, acknowledged and paid great tribute and offering to you...

so it is now that we call for your blessings:

-GIVE TO US THE WATERS OF BLESSING !!

-GIVE TO US THE WATERS OF LIFE !! ”

-“BEHOLD! THE WATERS OF LIFE!”

- a) Emerald will take a basket of little vials around the circle so each person will have one.
- b) Earrach follows closely behind with the Grail and allows each person to get their water.
- c) Maria and Emerald lead the song:

*Back to the River, back to the Sea  
Back to the ocean, home to thee  
Back through my blood, back through my veins  
Back to my heartbeat, all the same.*

d) Maria will be prepared with a pitcher in case we need to refill the Grail

2. Basket Blessing-**Earrach**

Folks are invited to come forward and present their Oestre baskets for blessing.

3. Folks are invited to take a moment to silently reflect on any additional needs. - **Maria**

**V. UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY – TIER FIVE**

A. Thanksgivings to Entities Invited (in reverse order of arrival:)

1. Primary Deity(ies) of the Occasion – Emerald

2. Kindred

a. Deities- **Alaric**

b. Ancestors - **Don**

c. Worldly Spirits - **Paul**

3. Bardic Deity - **Alaric**

B. Thanking the Gatekeeper and Closing the Threshold - **Diana**

C. Affirmation of Past/Future Continuity and Success:

**Earrach** - As it has been done in the past...  
As we have done it now...  
and as it likewise will be done in the future...  
we have again forged a link in the sacred chain of Tradition...

LONG LIVE THE TRADITION !

**All** - LONG LIVE THE TRADITION !

**Earrach** - Now let the Well be but Water

**Maria** – Let the Sacred Fire be but flame

**Emerald** – But the Sacred Tree grows always within us!

D. Unmerging, Regrounding and Recentering - **Felicia**

F. Clear-cut Ending: **Earrach**

1. Final Benediction

2. Announcement of End

3. Nine Knells

4. Recessional hymn.: *Walk with Wisdom*