# sonoran sunrise grove, adf Yule RITUAL 2007 Norse Pantheon By Dennis Ford

# **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: Guardian: Thor: Chalice of beer *Earth Mother(Nerthus)* - corn meal and dry oatmeal in a small bowl; **Bragi, Fire** - Oil in two small glasses; *Well* - silver for the well; *Tree* – bowl of holy well water; Gatekeeper Heimdahl – Water in small pitcher for Tree **Deities** – Whiskey in a small glass: Ancestors – Corn and tobacco in a small bowl *Nature Spirits(Landveiter) - herbs and oats in a small bowl;* **Odin**–l glass of Mead; Skadi –glass of Mead; Idunna – glass of Mead; **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 beer 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:

<u>Orator</u> 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 <u>Bard</u> teaches the People any new songs. The <u>Seer</u> leads the People in taking a moment to center.

# \* PROCESSION \*

#### <u>Orator</u> meets the People at the crossroads. Orator says:

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

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

The <u>Bard</u> leads the People in singing:

#### Join Us Now

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**

<u>Warrior</u> 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:

# Evocation to Thor As Guardian

Thunder, god of the common man He who wields the mighty Moljiner We ask you to guard and protect this rite through magic and arms

> Ice giant slayer, Sif's husband Mighty Thor Accept this Sacrifice

*The <u>People</u> say:* Mighty Thor, 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.

# <u>Orator</u> stands at the Gate to the Sacred Precinct. <u>Warrior</u> says:

Rises, Thurses, trolls, and Etins not aligned with our ways Also to all other forces outside the purpose of this rite We give you this horn of beer and ask you to stay away

Sv liggja það-----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.

# The <u>Bard</u> leads the <u>People</u> through the grove to the Henge with <u>Orator</u> and <u>Sacrificer</u> following last. Singing accompanies the <u>People</u> to the Henge.

# The <u>People find their places in the Circle of the Henge</u>

# Orator performs Hammer rite hallowing the space.

Traditional Hammer rite –(in Old Norse) Hamarr i nordhri, helga vé theta ok hald vördh Hamarr i austri, helga vé theta ok hald vördh Hamarr i sudhri, helga vé theta ok hald vördh Hamarr i vestri, helga vé theta ok hald vördh Hamarr yfir mer helga vé theta ok hald vördh Hamarr undir mer helga vé theta ok hald vördh Um mik ok I mér Asgardhr ok Midhgardhr!

# \* WELCOME \*

# <u>Orator</u> rings bell thrice-three times while saying: Ancestors! (rings bell three times) Landveiter! (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 Great Nerthus. Lady of the cart. Oh shrouded lady She who travels from her island in the sea to bestow fertility to the land and blessings to her people. Earth Mother Nerthus, we show you honor!

# <u>The People</u> kneel and kiss the Earth.

# <u>Orator</u> says:

Offerings we make to You, Great earth mother Nerthus. We offer Oats, a grain of ancient World. We also offer Corn to You, the fruit of these new lands.

Earth Mother Nerthus, accept our sacrifice!

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

# The <u>People</u> say:

Earth Mother Nerthus, accept our sacrifice!

<u>Orator</u> says: Now, let us pray with a good fire!

# <u>Warrior</u> lights the fire as

*Sacrificer says:* Nerthus ! We build our fire upon Your bosom, claiming this place as our own.

*Orator says:* Sv liggja það-----So be it

*The <u>People</u> say:* Sv liggja það-----So be it

# \* PURPOSE AND PRECEDENT \*

# Orator says:

We gather here to celebrate the time of Yule. A time of Hospitality, Death, forgiveness, and Laughter. It is also a time to remember to be young at heart.

# Warrior says:

We also offer worship to Idunna, The wife of Braggi and keeper of the Golden apples that gave the Aesir and Vanir Youthful hearts and bodies.

### <u>Seer</u> says:

We are also here to pay honor to Skadi. Who despite great sorrow and rage, found acceptance, Laughter and Love.

# Sacrificer says:

We offer Worship To the All Father Odin who's hospitality helped return peace to Asguard.

# Orator says:

So let us join together as one folk to make our sacrifices in joy and reverence! Sv liggja það-----So be it

# <u>The People:</u>

Sv liggja það-----So be it

# \* INSPIRATION AND LORE \*

# Rhythmic drumming begins to accompany the Inspiration Invocation.

### Orator says:

Bragi, Greatest of Skalds Greatest wordsmith of them all He who has the sacred runes tattooed on his tongue We ask you to lend your inspiration to this rite.

Great Bragi, Accept this Sacrifice.

# Sacrificer offers oil to the fire.

*<u>The People</u> say:* Great Bragi, accept our sacrifice!

(Lore can be inserted here)

# •CALLING TO THE Nine Worlds \*

(Written by Modig) (In the North) "Nifl-heim, land of the frost giants, Land of the cauldron Hvergelmir, From which the 12 streams flow. We honor you tonight, That we may become one with you."

(In the East) "Jotun-heim, land of the giants, Land of Ymir, Whose body was used to create the worlds. We honor you tonight, That we may become one with you."

(In the South) "Muspells-heim, land of the fire giants, Land of the sparks, That flew into the air to make the stars. We honor you tonight, That we may become one with you."

(In the West) "Vana-heim, land of the elder godden, Godden of wind and sea, Godden of agriculture and fertility. We honor you tonight, That we may become one with you."

(Below) "Svartalf-heim, land of the Dark Elves, Cultivators of ores and gems, Makers of the goddens gifts. We honor you tonight, That we may become one with you."

(Below)

"Hel-heim, deepest of the lands, Resting place for those ancestors, Who did not die in battle. We honor you tonight, That we may become one with you."

(Above) "Alf-heim, land of the light elves. Protectors of nature. Makers of fairy rings. We honor you tonight, That we may become one with you."

(Above) "Asgard, Highest of the lands. Home of the Aesir, And those who died in battle. We honor you tonight, That we may become one with you."

#### (Middle)

"And here in Midgard, By drawing the focus of the other worlds, We become one.

# WELL, FIRE AND TREE

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

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

<u>Seer</u> offers silver to the Well, saying: Sacred waters of Mirmirs well, Fountain of Wit of wisdom The Head waters of Memory. Mirmirs Well, flow within us!

*The <u>People</u> say:* Mirmirs Well, flow within us!

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

#### Sacrificer offers oil to the Fire, saying:

Sacred Fire, May your light join with the Bifrost Bridge The Rainbow Conecting the Midgard to Asgard. Light of the Bifrost, burn within us

The <u>People</u> say:

Light of the Bifrost, burn within us

*The <u>Warrior</u> pours water on the roots, and <u>Sanctifier 1</u> censes the World Tree, saying in unison: Sacred Ash Yggdrasil formed from Odins will Joiner of the nine worlds, Branches above, roots below* 

Mighty, Yggdrasil grow within us!

The <u>People</u> say:

Sacred Tree, grow within us!

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

# **\* OPENING THE SACRED CENTER \***

# **THE GATEKEEPER**

# The <u>Lead Drummer</u> continues with the beat.

Gatekeeper

Mighty Heimdahl, Born of 9 mothers, Odins Son Keeper of the Galahorn, Bi frost watcher, The Bifrost The great Rainbow bridge between the heavens and earth. Greatest work of the gods.

Mighty Heimdahl maintain your watching and warding, and aid us In opening a center connecting worlds.

Eagle eyed Heimdahl, Accept our sacrifice

# **OPENING THE GATES**

# Orator brings a staff to the center of the Circle.

*Meanwhile, the <u>Bard</u> moves counter clockwise around the Circle, and leads the <u>People</u> in quietly chanting: Open the Gates, Open the Gates, Open the Gates.....* 

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

<u>Orator</u> 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, <u>Orator</u> says: Let the Well join with Mirmir's well and open as a gate!

# He continues spinning at least one full revolution.

# As his staff passes over the Fire, <u>Orator</u> says: Let the Fire join with the Bifrost and open as a gate. !

# He continues spinning at least one full revolution.

As his staff passes by the Tree, <u>Orator</u> says: Let the Tree Yggdrasil connect the Nine Worlds!

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

<u>Orator</u> stops spinning, holds both hands (and staff) in the air and shouts: Leyfa hinn hlið liggja opinn -----Let the gates be open

*<u>The People</u> shout:* Let the Gates be open!

# After a pause, where all visualize the opening of the portals, <u>Orator</u> says:

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

# \* KINDRED OFFERINGS \*

#### **Orator says:**

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

# ANCESTORS

<u>Sanctifier 2</u> censes the Ancestors altar, then goes and waits by the Nature Spirits altar. The <u>Warrior</u> waits behind the Main Altar.

# The <u>Seer</u> or invited Celebrant stands at the SE side of the Circle, facing the Ancestors altar, and says these or other words:

Ancestors of this land, Fathers and mothers who came before us, Kin of heart and blood. Those we know and those do not. we show you honor.

Ancestors accept our sacrifice.

# Orator says:

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

# After a few moments, <u>Orator</u> 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. <u>Sanctifier 2</u> censes the Nature Spirits altar, then goes and waits by the Altar.

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

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

Landvettir! Spirits of soil, water and sky. Spirits of tree, herb, stone, stream and lake. Bird, fish and beast. We honor you here.

Landvettir, Accept our sacrifice.

*<u>The People</u> say:* Landvettir, accept our sacrifice!

# The <u>Bard</u> leads the <u>People</u> in singing:

# 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, <u>Orator</u> says:

Landvettir, 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:

Aesir, Vanir, Gods and goddess of all realms We ask you to come into this place and share your wisdom,

Aesir and Vanir, gods of all realms accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer makes an offering of oil to the fire.

The People say:

Aesir and Vanir, gods of all realms accept our sacrifice!

The <u>Bard</u> leads the People in singing:

# Welcome Kindreds All Words and music By Dennis and Nora Ford

Welcome kindreds all, we worship you. Welcome kindreds all, to this holy space.

Offerings we made, through well fire and tree. Offerings we made, in praise of thee.

Welcome kindreds all, we honor you. Welcome kindreds all.

#### 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, <u>Orator</u> 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 Gods of our rite!

# <u>Idunna</u>

<u>Orator</u> invokes the Goddess. <u>Sacrificer</u> takes whiskey to the fire. <u>Sanctifier 1</u> takes the smoking sage bundle to the Sigil Altar and waits while the Warrior lights another sage bundle at the Fire and goes to the Wreath. <u>Warrior</u> censes the image and waits there.

### **Invocation of Idunna**

Idunna, Giver of youth to the Aesir and Vanir Bragi's bride, We call upon you now!

Prisoner of Thaissi , She who kept the golden apples away from him , Please join us by the Fire!

> Returner of youth, Beloved lady . We make this offering to you

# Orator offers whiskey to the Fire.

Youthful Idunna, accept our sacrifice!

Orator offers Mead to the Tree.

#### <u>Skadi</u>

Sacrificer says:

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

Sacrificer stands facing the Sigil Altar and says:

#### **Invocation of Skadi**

Goddess of the winter snows, Njords wife, Thiassi's Daughter We call upon you now!

Snow shoe goddess, Father avenger Great archer, and strong of will Come join us by our fire!

Your father's eyes placed among the stars You were ,Given a husband And a place among the Asier and Vanir

We offer you Oh Skadi mead to the fire Great Skadi Accept our Sacrifice

*The <u>People</u> say:* Great Skadi, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers Mead to the Fire.

#### <u>Odin</u>

<u>Orator</u> stands facing the Odin Altar and says:

#### **Invocation of Odin**

All Father Bringer of the sacred runes We honor you

God of the Wild hunt, Valhalla's host, We call upon You now!

He who hung in the tree for 9 days He that made the cosmos from Ymir's broken body, Come to us as the wanderer And join us by our Fire.

### Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Well.

Great Odin, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers mead to the Well.

*The <u>People</u> say:* Great Odin, accept our sacrifice!

Sacrificer offers whiskey to the Fire.

Orator offers whiskey to the Fire.

# \* PRAISE OFFERINGS \*

#### Orator says:

Does anyone have offerings of praise to make to our Patrons, Odin, Skadi, Idunna or any of Aesir and Vanir.

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

<u>Sacrificer</u> 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,* <u>Sacrificer</u> takes the wreath, and joins <u>Orator</u> at the fire.

<u>Orator</u> says: Idunna, Skadi, and Odin! Our love, joy and reverence have filled this Wreath of Praise.

O Sacred Ones, Accept our Sacrifice!

Sacrificer puts the wreath in the Fire.

*The <u>People</u> 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, Idunna, Skadi, and Odin. 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.

Holy Ones! We now share this mean with You!

# THE SHARED MEAL

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

# Orator says:

Hospitable All father, Strong Skadi, Youthful Idunna We share this bread with you for all of the Many gifts you have given to us.

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

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

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

<u>Orator</u> says: Odin, Skadi, and Idunna! May our Piety increase Your magic! May our courage increase Your power! And may our fertile spirits show the world Your abundance!

Mighty God, accept our sacrifice!

*The <u>People</u> say:* Mighty Gods, accept our sacrifice!

There is a flourish on the drums, and then The <u>Bard</u> leads the <u>People</u> in singing:

**The Sacrifice Song** 

By Ian Corrigan and friends

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)* 

# \* THE OMEN \*

#### **Orator** says:

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

#### While the wreath offering burns,

The <u>Seer</u> takes <u>the Omen</u>. She interprets it, which blessings have been granted by the Powers. While the <u>Seer</u> is preparing to read the omen, the <u>Druids</u> prepare the Waters of Life.

<u>Orator</u> pours mead into the large drinking horn. <u>Warrior</u> fills another horn with waters from the Well. They are hung on their hangers.

The <u>Seer</u> 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 <u>People</u> 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 we have done so far in our rite, have led to this moment. We have made offerings to the Kindred's, 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. Kindred's we ask you to hallow these waters. We ask you to bless our lives with magic, power and abundance.

I raise this horn and ask: Ancestors. Give us the waters of life.

Again I raise the horn and ask Landvettir give us the waters of life

I raise the horn a third time and ask Aesir and Vanir give us the waters of life Behold the waters of life.

### Orator pours holy water in each horn.

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

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

(Insert waters of life song here)

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 Kindred's 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?

# The <u>People</u> say:

We accept the gifts of the Kindreds!

# \* 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.

# A drumbeat begins and rattles fill the sound.

# Orator says:

Great *I*dunna, keeper of the golden apples. For returning youth to goddens we say vi fiyrir takk we thank you

# The People say:

We thank you!

# The Sacrificer says:

Noble Skadi, for your strength in the face of adversity we say vi fiyrir takk we thank you

# The People say:

We thank you!

# <u>Seer</u> says:

Odin Mighty all father, for your hospitality we say vi fiyrir takk we thank you

# The People say:

We thank you!

# Sanctifier 1 says:

Gods and Goddesses of elder days, great Light in our lives, to you we say, vi fiyrir takk we thank you We thank you!

# The People say:

We thank you!

# Bard says:

Landvettir Noble Spirits of the Land, our allies in this world, to you we say, vi fiyrir takk we thank you We thank you!

<u>The People</u> say: We thank you!<u>Seer</u> says: Mighty Ancestors, you who stand behind us in wisdom and love, to you we say, vi fiyrir takk we thank you We thank you!

# The People say:

We thank you!

# Bard says:

Skilled Bragi for giving us inspiration for this rite we say vi fiyrir takk we thank you

# Warrior says:

Mighty Thor, Guardian of our Rite, For your Watching and Warding, Through magic and arms, we say, vi fiyrir takk we thank you We thank you!

# The People say:

We thank you!

<u>Seer</u> says: Heimdahl, Keeper of the Bifrost, 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, vi fiyrir takk we thank you We thank you!!

*The People* say: We thank you!

# *Orator says:* Now we end what we began.

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

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

<u>Sacrificer</u> 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, <u>Sacrificer</u> says: Let the fire be flame!

As the staff passes the well, <u>Sacrificer</u> says: Let the well be water!

As the staff passes the World Tree, <u>Sacrificer</u> says: Let the Tree return to the Midworld!

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

<u>Sacrificer</u> stops spinning, holds both hands (and staff) in the air and shouts: Leyfa hinn hlið liggja fyrir-----Let the gates be closed (Pronounced Leya Hin Luth Ligia Frerer)

<u>*The People*</u> say: Let the Gates be closed!

# THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER

**Orator says:** Earth Mother Nerthus! 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.

<u>Orator</u>, <u>Sacrificer</u> and <u>Sanctifier 2</u> 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, vi fiyrir takk we thank you We thank you

*The <u>People</u> say:* We thank You!

# **\* THE RECESSION \***

# <u>Orator</u> 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.Sv liggjabað-----So be itSv liggja

<u>The People</u> say: Sv liggja það-----So be it

# The <u>Bard</u> 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.