

Keeper's of the Holly Chalice

Lammas

Newark, DE

August 2, 2008

Sun and Moon in Leo – Aquarius Rising

Preparation: The circle is marked with corn husks, shafts of wheat, or other seasonal items. An altar is placed in the center of the circle. The Lammas Loaf and Ale are placed on the altar along with the Chalice. A small basket is placed on the central altar as well. We each bring a **small** physical item to be used as a representation of what we pledge to sacrifice during this ritual. Everyone should bring a fresh candle to the ritual. We each bring our candle and item for sacrifice into ritual with us.

I. Purification

We purify with salt water and incense
(____ and ____) while chanting:

*It's been long since the planting
We have tended with care
Now we stand at the harvest
Minds open and clear*

*We give thanks for the bounty
May it last till next year
Now we offer our first fruits
Hearts open and clear
By Arcta Firebringer*

II. Cast and Call

The circle is cast in the Mutable modality by _____. (Mutable modality used to emphasize the death/rebirth theme, transformations, and transitions.)

III. Statement of Intent

We listen as Leanne reads the statement of intent for this rite emphasizing the sacrifices which are needed at this time and a request of the deities for a bountiful harvest.

IV. Opening the Chalice

The chalice is opened by the group.

V. An Audience with Tailtiu and Lugh

We ask for Tailtiu and Lugh to awaken as we chant "Within Every Soul"

As Tailtiu and Lugh are aspected by Gretchen and Mark, we listen to the words imparted to us by the God/dess. They tell us of their sacrifices made this during season so that we may survive.

We each approach Tailtiu or Lugh and pledge to them what sacrifices we will make for the earth, for our sustenance or for our personal growth. As we do so we place our physical sacrifices in a basket to represent/reinforce the verbal promise we have just made. When everyone has made their pledge and placed an item in the basket, the basket is passed around the circle while we chant:

*Hoof and horn. Hoof and horn
All that dies shall be reborn
Corn and grain. Corn and grain
All that falls shall rise again
By Ian Corrigan*

When the energy peaks, the chanting stops, and whomever is holding the basket at that time, holds it high so that our pledges are released.

VI. Cakes and Ale

Tailtiu offers blessings for the Lammas loaf and Ale. The Goddess passes the cakes/ale around the circle and we each partake of the bounty.

Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again !!

VII. Turning the Wheel

Lugh lights our candles offering any additional thoughts and/or blessings. With our candles lit, we walk deosil while chanting:

There Is No End, Nor Beginning.

There Is Only Change.

By Ivo Domínguez, Jr.

. . . as we turn the wheel of the year. When the turning is complete, we extinguish our candles as a symbol of the ultimate sacrifices of Tailtiu and Lugh. We maintain silence for a few moments and listen internally for any further messages of the holiday.

VIII. Thanking the Great Ones

_____ leads us in thanking Tailtiu and Lugh for their presence, sacrifice and blessings. We chant to honor the deities:

*The Boughs Do Shake And Bells Do Ring,
So Merrily Comes Our Harvest In,
Our Harvest In, Our Harvest In,
So Merrily Comes Our Harvest In,
We've Ploughed, We've Sowed,
We've Reaped, We've Mowed,
We've Got Our Harvest In.*

Words from Mother Goose --

Tune By Ivo Dominguez, Jr

We bid them farewell by stating firmly "We give thanks !!" three times.

IX. Closing the Circle

_____ closes the circle.