# http://ts2.mm.bing.net/th?id=I.4817326293713177&pid=1.7&w=135&h=147&c=7&rs=1An Ostara Rite

At this time of year, spring has arrived and winter is in abeyance. The night and day are of equal length and flowers have begun to bloom. Some trees are growing leaves while others are still bare. It is a transitional time. The nights are still cold, but the sun is rapidly gaining power. Life is returning to the land. Ostara is a holiday that celebrates planting. Whereas ideas for the coming year were formulated at Imbolc, the plans for the year are set in motion at Ostara. The agricultural metaphor is that the layout for the fields is planned at Imbolc and the seeds are actually planted at Ostara. Like Beltane (the next Sabbat), Ostara is a fertility holiday (hence the use of pastel-colored eggs as a symbol for the season). Ostara is considered a “lesser” Sabbat, along with Litha (summer solstice), Mabon (autumnal equinox), and Yule (winter solstice).

## Setting up Sacred Space

For an outdoor ritual, four torches should be placed in the cardinal directions. For added significance, appropriately colored ribbons can be tied to the torches. A green altar cloth would be appropriate for this Sabbat. For an indoor ritual, the worship space should be swept with a broom made of natural fibers.

## Special Materials Needed

* A packet of seeds (can be for flowers or vegetables).
* A small potted plant (can actually be a tree seedling or a shrub).

## Casting the Circle

The Celebrant walks the perimeter of the circle three times, clockwise, starting in the east. In the first pass, the Celebrant uses a rod of incense. In the second pass, the Celebrant uses a small bowl of water and sea salt. With the third pass, the Celebrant employs his/her Athame.

While walking the third circle, the Celebrant says: “I cast the circle with power and love / Earth below to Sky above / With shining Sun and glittering Sea / God and Goddess blessed be.”

**Celebrant**: “The Circle is cast!”

**Covenors**: “So mote it be!”

## Calling the Quarters

The calls to elemental spirits and deities start in the east and progress in a clockwise fashion. The appropriate candle is lit after each call.

### Air/East

Guardian of the East, Spirit of Air

We invite to join us here

The icy gusts have had their say

And warming breezes now hold sway

The winter’s wrath is nearly done

The skies welcome the return of the sun

Guardian of the East, we give thanks to thee

Spirit of Air, Blessed Be

*Hail and Welcome!*

### Fire/South

Guardian of the South, Spirit of Fire

We invite you to join us here

We greet the sun’s returning power

Night and Day have equal hour

You defended us from winter’s touch

The hearth and candles gave us much

Guardian of the South, we give thanks to thee

Spirit of Fire, Blessed Be

*Hail and Welcome!*

### Water/West

Guardian of the West, Spirit of Water

We invite you to join us here

Ice to water, snow to rain

The ground shall drink of life again

Rivers thaw and streams run cool

Icy lake becomes crystal pool

Guardian of the West, we give thanks to thee

Spirit of Water, Blessed Be

*Hail and Welcome!*

### Earth/North

Guardian of the North

Spirit of Earth

We invite you to join us here

The thaw has come to free the ground

The Wheel of Life has come around

Leaf and branch, trees and ferns

The sleepers awaken, the life returns

Guardian of the North, we give thanks to thee

Spirit of Earth, Blessed Be

*Hail and Welcome!*

### God

God of the Sun, Lord of the Grain

We invite you to join us here again

Lord of life, above and below

Your spirit makes the green things grow

Wheat and corn and apple tree

The seeds of life shall now break free

God of the Sun, we give thanks to thee

Lord of the Grain, Blessed Be

*Hail and Welcome!*

### Goddess

Maiden Goddess, Giver of Life

We invite you to this sacred rite

Beloved Maiden, we sing thee praise

With drum and bell and voice we raise

You give us life to seek and learn

Your love and hope is what we yearn

Maiden Goddess, we give thanks to thee

Giver of Life, Blessed Be

*Hail and Welcome!*

## Meditation

*The meditation will focus on communing with the image awakening trees.*

“Close your eyes and relax your body. Put your arms and legs in a comfortable position but keep your spine straight. In your mind’s eye, think of a safe place, a clearing in the forest. The sun shines down in this clearing and the sky is dotted with white and grey clouds. The sun shines brightly, and the sky is so blue, so pure, so perfect. You can see more clearly than you ever have before. The sunlight feels warm but not hot. It drives the wind. You feel the cool air against your skin. The air is clean and smells faintly of blossoms. The trees have new leaves, bright green, and turned upward towards the sun.

“Think of the sun, draw energy from it as you stand in the clearing. Feel how the sun feeds the waist-high grasses and how the trees draw life into themselves. They draw from the sun, and the trees are a conduit between sky and earth. They give so much. In this place, you can sense their life. A year to us is as a day to them. The seasons change, and with it their waking and sleeping. Now is the time of their awakening. Feel the gathering life, the intensifying energy, the unheard humming and rumbling that is the life force of all that is around you.

“Remember the sacredness of the life of trees. Remember how it feels to sense the presence of life. You close your eyes in that other place. Relax you mind. Feel yourself coming back to your physical body. Breathe in, breathe out. Breathe in, breathe out. Breathe in, breathe out. Open your eyes now, and remember.”

## Magical Working

*This ritual shall require a small potted tree. The ritual also requires a packet of seeds (can be of assorted wild flowers.) The seeds are kept in a small dish next to the tree.*

**Celebrant:** “Ostara celebrates the return of life to the land. It is a time of planting -- not just of physical crops, but of ideas and concepts. What about your life would you like to experience new growth and new vitality? Take a seed, empower it with your will, and plant it in the soil. As it flourishes, and the tree flourishes, what you will for yourself shall come to fruition in the coming months.”

The Covenors each take a seed and empower them with will and intent. If desired, each Covenor may briefly state their intent for the year. For example, a Covenor might say “I plant the seed of better self-discipline” or “I plant the seed of improved health.”

Once all the seeds have been planted in the soil of the potted plant, the Celebrant seals the spell.

**Celebrant:** “Let that with is positive, helpful, and loving be what increases during the light half of the year. So mote it be.”

**Covenors**: “So mote it be!”

## Cakes and Ale

*If there are two Celebrants (Priest and Priestess), the Priest shall distribute the bread/cakes and the Priestess shall distribute the cup of wine/ale/juice.*

Priest or Priestess: “The celebration of bread and wine is not unique to Wicca. Many religions in many cultures have venerated the bounty of grain and vine. Bread and wine sustain the body and bring us together as a community. In the Wiccan tradition, these gifts also bring us in communion with the God and Goddess. And so we bring you these gifts so that we may be united with one another in spirit.”

**Priestess**: “With the cup, we are one.”

**Covenor**: “Blessed be”

**Priest**: “We are one people, we share one bread.”

**Covenor:** “Blessed be.”

## Releasing the Quarters

The elemental spirits and deities are released in the opposite order in which they were called.

### Goddess

Maiden Goddess, Giver of Life

Thank you for your presence here tonight

Beloved Maiden we love you so

You grant us life, you help us grow

You enfold us in your love’s embrace

So in our lives, you have a place

Maiden Goddess, I give thanks to thee

Giver of Life, Blessed Be

*Hail and Farewell!*

### God

God of the Sun, Lord of the Grain

Thank you for coming to us again

You grow in power with the sun’s increase

The energy for life you do release

Thank you for the warming rays

For growing life, for growing days

God of the Sun, I give thanks to thee

Lord of the Grain, Blessed Be

*Hail and Farewell!*

### Earth/North

Guardian of the North, Spirit of Earth

Thank you for joining us tonight

Tree and vine, fern and flower

All shall rise in growing power

The crops shall grow, the corn and wheat

Grown with care so we may eat

Guardian of the North, we give thanks to thee

Spirit of Earth, Blessed Be

*Hail and Farewell!*

### Water/West

Guardian of the West, Spirit of Water

Thank you for joining us tonight

Lake and stream, creek and river

The gift of life you do deliver

Thank you for the mist and rain

That lets the Green Ones grow again

Guardian of the West, we give thanks to thee

Spirit of Water, Blessed Be

*Hail and Farewell!*

### Fire/South

Guardian of the South, Spirit of Fire

Thank you for joining us tonight

The weakened sun has grown in power

Winter’s chill has had its hour

The days are warmer and grow in length

As the sun so grows in strength

Guardian of the South, we give thanks to thee

Spirit of Fire, Blessed Be

*Hail and Farewell!*

### Air/East

Guardian of the East, Spirit of Air

Thank you for joining us tonight

The winds now blow and stir the fields

A warming breath of life it yields

And birds return on clement breeze

To reclaim their homes upon the trees

Guardian of the East, I give thanks to thee,

Spirit of Air, Blessed Be

*Hail and Farewell!*

### Opening the Circle

The Celebrant releases the circle by tracing the circle in a counterclockwise direction, starting from the east.

**Priest**: “May all spirits attracted to our light return to your realms in peace, harming none.”

**Priestess**: “The circle, though open, remains unbroken. Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again. Blessed Be!”