# http://ts1.mm.bing.net/th?id=I.4683237427053408&pid=1.7&w=161&h=155&c=7&rs=1A Lughnassadh Rite

Lughnassadh is the first of the three harvest holidays (corn and grain) in the Wiccan liturgical calendar (followed by Mabon and Samhain). At this time of year, the days are still hot and the sun is still bright. And dusk comes earlier now and the nights are cooler. Lughnassadh celebrates the harvest of grains. This holiday also reveres the sacrificial nature of the God. In the Wiccan tradition, act of harvesting crops necessarily means that the corn and grains are cut down and slain for our consumption. The self-sacrifice of the God for the life of the people is a metaphor for this necessary task.

## Preparing the Sacred Space

It is preferable that the ritual take place outdoors in a natural setting. The Celebrant shall place torches at the periphery of the sacred space at the proper cardinal directions. The space shall be purified with sage smoke and ritually swept with a broom. For a summer rite, decorate the altar with corn and grain. The beverage can be mead or mint tea, while the cakes can be corn muffins.

##  Special Materials Needed

* Mortar and pestle; sandalwood, myrrh, frankincense, cedar oil; small pouches (one for each participant).

## Casting the Circle

If a Priest and Priestess are present, the Priestess shall cast the first and third iteration while the Priest shall cast the second iteration. If there is only one celebrant, that person shall cast all three iterations. The circle casting shall start at the east and be drawn clockwise. The circle shall begin with the invoking of a protective Pentacle. The first circle iteration will use a wand of incense, the second shall use a bowl of salt, and the third shall use a personal wand or fire wand. While the circles are being cast, the Priest/Priestess shall issue a Gathering Call.

### First Iteration

**Priestess:**

"Come shapers, come craftsmen, come molders of clay

Come artists, come singers, come teachers of the way

Come warriors, come hearth-keepers, come healers

Come wise ones, come mystics, come fortune-dealers."

**Covenors:**

"We come to the Circle, we answer the call!"

### Second Iteration

**Priest:**

"We are shapers of dreams, crafters of song

We are teachers of lore, righters of wrong

We are seekers of truth, affirmers of life

We are guardians of peace, soothers of strife."

**Coverers:**

"We come to the Circle, we answer the call!"

### Third Iteration

**Priestess:**

We remember the fire, the well, and the tree

We remember the call that all must be free

We remember the Lady, and the Lord of the Sun,

We remember the charge to love all and harm none

**Covenors**:

"We come to the Circle, we answer the call!"

**Priest and Priestess:** "The Circle is cast!"

**Coven**: "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

In love and thanks we invite you here

By day, the wind blows through fields of grain

The time of harvest has come again

With dusk comes the cooling breeze

Blowing through pear and apple trees

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

In love and thanks we invite you here

Braziers and torches, burning free

Give us light so we may see

The bonfire roars with amber light

The scent of wood gives us delight.

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

In love and thanks, we invite you here.

Thunderstorms gather, proud and dark

Lightning scatters with violent spark

The blessing of pure water from the sky

Feeds trees and crops so they do not die

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

In love and thanks we invite you here.

The fertile ground aids the crops and trees

Blossoms, flowers, vines, and leaves

The harvest time is soon at hand

And so we thank the prosperous land

Guardian of the North we give thanks to thee

Spirit of Earth, Blessed Be

Hail and Welcome!

### God

God of the Harvest, Lord of the Grain

In love and thanks, we invite you again.

Rye and barley, corn and wheat

Your life has grown the food we eat

Thank you for the light of the sun

Shining warmth on everyone

God of the harvest, we give thanks to thee

Lord of the grain, blessed be

Hail and Welcome!

### Goddess

Mother Goddess, Giver of Life

With love and thanks we invite you here

The fields are blessed with love and power

Waving grains, fruit and flower

As are our lives blessed by your love

As below, so above.

Mother Goddess, we give thanks to thee

Giver of Life, Blessed Be

Hail and Welcome!

## A Sun and Harvest Meditation

Close your eyes and arrange your body in a comfortable position. Have your feet in contact with the ground and have your spine straight. Take three slow breaths. Breath in… breathe out… breathe in… breathe out… breathe in… breathe out…

We are leaving this place. In your mind’s eye, you stand in a field of wheat that is ready for harvest. The sky is a perfect blue, so bright and clear, so limitless. The air buzzes with myriad insects. In the distance, you hear the calls of livestock and the sounds of harvesting machines that will soon gather the grains. Crows fly overhead and squawk. Their shadows pass over you briefly as they fly overhead. A faint breeze cools your skin and tousles the heads of wheat as if by an invisible hand. You feel the life energy of the crops. If flows up from the ground and into your body, through your feet and through your spine. Feel the energy of the earth empower you, sustain you. You are part of the ecology, part of this life.

Now look to the sky. The sun is past its zenith and now sinks towards the horizon. It slowly turns from yellow-white to orange-crimson. The sun, though still warm, no longer sears or scorches. Its power wanes, but much of it yet remains. You lift your hands to the setting sun. Draw into your being its energy, its warm colors. The sun’s light flows into your eyes and, in this place, the light does not burn your retinas. You can see the sun in its perfection. It empowers you. It sustains you.

Draw in the sunlight, and remember it. Remember this time, for soon autumn and winter will come. By the sun’s waning light, you have life and energy. All is as it should be.

We are leaving this place of harvesting. We are leaving this place of grains. Close your eyes. Breathe in… breathe out… breathe in… breathe out… breathe in… breathe out.

When you are ready, open your eyes.

## The Magical Working

The magical working will involve creating a portion of consecration incense that may be used for ceremonies that involves empowering items. The items required for this working are:

* A small pouch for each Covenors
* A mortar/pestle
* Three parts frankincense
* One part myrrh
* One part sandalwood
* A few drops of cedar oil

Once the Covenors have made their supply of incense, the Celebrant shall recite the first couplet three times while making the invoking pentagram.

**Celebrant:**

"By my will this spell is sealed

When it burns, its power revealed

Oils mixed and incense milled

Thrice spoken, once fulfilled

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 elements and deities will be released in the opposite order in which they were invoked. The appropriate candle is snuffed after each dismissal.

### Goddess

Mother Goddess, Giver of Life

We give you thanks for coming here

Thank you for the grains of yellow and gold

Corn and wheat, as you foretold

Thank you for the fruit-laden trees

And blossoms, wax, honey, and bees

Mother Goddess, we give thanks to thee

Giver of life, blessed be

Hail and farewell!

### God

Lord of the Harvest, God of the Grain

Thank you for coming to us again

The time of harvest is at hand

We reap the blessings of the land

Your life you give to sustain us all

As summer passes on towards fall

Lord of the Harvest, we give thanks to thee

God of the Grain, Blessed be

Hail and farewell.

### Earth/North

Guardian of the North, Spirit of Earth

We give you thanks for coming here

Return to the verdant hills and fields

Take with you our thanks for its wondrous yields

The corn is ready, the fruit is ripe

The harvest comes with a sickle’s swipe

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

We give you thanks for coming here

Return to the streams the feed our grain

And to the torrential summer rain

Your blessings descend to us from the sky

It cools our skin and delights the eye

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

We give you thanks for coming here

Return to the Bonfires that brighten the night

Wood smoke and incense give us delight

Your blessings shine in candle light

The sun now sets, but you grant us sight

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

We give you thanks for coming here

Return to the clouds of the summer sky

Upon your currents, blossoms fly

We thank you for the fragrant breeze

That blows aloft through verdant trees

Guardian of the East, we give thanks to thee

Hail and Farewell!

## Releasing the Circle

*The Celebrant traces the path of the circle in a counterclockwise (widdershins) direction, using a wand or Athame.*

**Celebrant**: The Circle, though open, remains unbroken.

**Celebrant and Coven:** Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again.

**Celebrant**: Blessed be!