

Intro: Mike

In our modern world it is easy to forget how important a successful harvest was to our ancestors. They had cause for celebration: A good harvest meant survival in the dark, cold months ahead. A poor or bad harvest signaled the beginning of difficult times. Even though we can run out to the supermarket whenever we need something, this is a good time to give thought to where our food originates and reverence for the cycles that produce it. Better still, tending a garden keeps us in touch with the Goddess and her bounty. Even if your garden consists only of tomatoes or herbs grown in pots on a balcony, these taste all the sweeter for having been nurtured by your own hands.

Tonight's circle is created to give thanks for what the Lord and Lady provide. The late summer harvest is a time of transformation; a time to take stock of how the year has unfolded thus far, what you have done, and what you are ready to reap. The fruits of the seeds planted in the spring (physical and spiritual) are ready to be gathered in.

Directions:

Come spirits of North, powers of Earth, bring the beauty of ripe, golden fields. Be with us this night.

Come spirits of East, powers of Air, bring the cool morning breeze. Be with us this night.

Come spirits of South, powers of Fire, bring the hot, sultry summer afternoons. Be with us this night.

Come spirits of West, powers of Water, bring the warm rains that nourish the fields. Be with us this night.

Casting:

All: *A circle is a symbol of completeness and continuity. It is the Wheel of the Year; the cycle of life. Now is high summer. The days are hot and the nights sultry. The first harvest is taken in and we rejoice in the bounty that is provided. With this circle sacred space has been created where the realms touch.*

Covenant:

All: As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

Calling the God(All): *Lord Lugh, Lord of the Harvest, the bounty of your seed ripens in the fields and orchards. Be with us this night.*

Calling the Goddess(All): *Goddess, Mother of All, your great swollen belly provides abundance. Nourish us, protect us. Be with us this night.*

(Janet and Joe) At the altar, take up the chalice and the athame. Slowly lower the athame into the raised chalice to symbolize the Great Rite, saying:

This is Lughnasadh, the time of Lugh. This is the time of the first harvest. We celebrate the bounty of the Goddess and Lugh.

Fill the chalice with honey mead. Before taking a bite of cornbread and a sip of mead say, respectively:

I share the bounty of the Lord. I share the bounty of the Lady.

(Mike) Think of what began earlier in the year, has grown, and is ready to come to fruition in your life. Take two grapes and hold them in your hands. Think of what you want to reap in this time of harvest. When you have it firmly in your mind, eat one of the grapes, and then place one on the altar as an offering and state what you wish to reap in this time

of harvest. After all have done that, now is a time to voice what you wish for others. If you know someone is having difficulty, wish that it is resolved. You may also want to send loving energy to the earth and out into the world.

Chant:

*With our circle we send a gift to you,
May the Goddess grant our wishes true.*

When the energy has reached its peak release it and then say:
May our wishes and intentions be carried above and below.

Communion

Thanking the Lord and Lady:

All: *Goddess, thank you for your blessing and presence in our circle this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid thee farewell.*

All: *Lord Lugh, Lord of the Harvest, thank you for your blessing and presence in our circle this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid thee farewell.*

Thanking the Directions:

Spirits of West, powers of Water, thank you for your blessing and presence in our circle this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid thee farewell.

Spirits of South, powers of Fire, thank you for your blessing and presence in our circle this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid thee farewell.

Spirits of East, powers of Air, thank you for your blessing and presence in our circle this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid thee farewell.

Spirits of North, powers of Earth, thank you for your blessing and presence in our circle this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid thee farewell.

All:

*As all good things must sometimes end,
Go forth with the love the Goddess sends.
For if your heart is always true,
This circle will come back to you.*