

Ostara of the Chocolate Bunnies

Created for Ratatosk Coven

By C. Pennington

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Altar Set up:

altar cloth

Candles for the Goddess & God

Center candle

Carrot for athame

Bubble wand

Glitter candle

Fur of the fallen

Flowers of the season

Chalice and plate for cakes and champagne

Additional tradition tools

Peeps of the four directions/quarter colors

Four bowls of jelly beans: red, yellow, blue and green

Cakes and wine: Carrots, fruit, jelly beans, milk and juice

To begin the HPS will:

tap the altar 3 times with the wand

ring a bell three times

The Blessing Prayer

Light the center candle, then the altar candles as the Blessing Prayer is read.

High Priestess:

In the beginning was the burrow and it was dark and warm and safe.

From out of winter's sleep the Lady awoke, ears and whiskers twitching.

She breathed a sigh of delight and brought light into the darkness.

HPs then lights side candles from the center candle

High Priestess:

But the light of the Lady could never be happy alone,

and so she sought out Her other Selves

Seed-Bearer and Nesting-Minder, Free-Spirit, Wandering-One, and Old-soul,

All different shapes and forms to carry Her light into the world.

They traveled from burrow to burrow, carrying joy and light in their paws.

She hands the candle to the HP

High Priest:

Their light spread to the four hillocks and soaked deep into the winter-dark soil.

HP takes the flame to each point.

Summoning the Powers of the Elements

P: In the East, the light arrived on the winds bringing knowledge and carrots.

P: In the South, the light danced in as flames bringing will and carrots

P: In the West, the light swept across the waves bringing daring and carrots

P: In the North, the light became meadows bringing silence and carrots

P then returns to the main altar and says to the HPS:

P: My lady, the powers of the Elements have been summoned.

HPS: And the Circle binds them together with Carrots.

HPS lights the Goddess and God candles saying:

Bunnies to enfold me.
Bunnies to surround me.

Consecrating the Elements

Salt:

We honor the blessing of earth that lives within the salt distilled from
Mother Rabbit, and the green jelly bean!

Raise up the bowl of salt and green jelly beans

Water:

We celebrate the blessing of water that nourishes all life with each freely
given drop, and the purple jelly bean!

Raise up the bowl of water and blue jelly beans

Incense:

We honor the blessings of air that flow around and within us at each
moment, and the yellow blue bean!

Raise up the incense and bowl of yellow jelly beans

Fire:

We celebrate the blessings of fire that fuels the passions of our lives, and
the red jelly bean!

Raise up the candle and bowl of red jelly beans

Casting the Circle

The Priestess/Priest casting the Circle says:

Here in our Burrow of Safety and Community,
We call upon the Bunnies of the Elements
Using the Wand of Bubbles and the Carrot of Power
Using the Candle of Glitter and the Fur of the Fallen
To cast and consecrate this circle of power
So that we may have a nest of joy and warmth
To celebrate our rites and our tribe.

Priestess/Priest Consecrations

Each celebrant is consecrated with salt water and incense deosil around the circle.

By Carrot, By Candle, By Bubble, By Fur,
By the Breath and Blessing and Being of Mother Rabbit

Calling the Quarters

East:

Hail, Scampering Bunnies of the east
I call upon your yellow peeps to guard our Circle and witness our rites!
Hail and Nibbles!

All respond: Hail and Nibbles!

South:

Hail, Scampering Bunnies of the South
I call upon your pink peeps to guard our Circle and witness our rites!
Hail and Nibbles!

All respond: Hail and Nibbles!

West:

Hail, Scampering Bunnies of the West
I call upon your blue peeps to guard our Circle and witness our rites!
Hail and Nibbles!

All respond: Hail and Nibbles!

North:

Hail, Scampering Bunnies of the North
I call upon your green peeps to guard our Circle and witness our rites!
Hail and Nibbles!

All respond: Hail and Nibbles!

Invocation of Ostara

Hail to you Ostara,
You, who are the very essence of spring
The burst of energy that sings of life renewed,
The fresh buds that green the trees and color the landscape of our hopes

Hail to you Ostara,
You, who are the potent magic of youth,
The joyful eyes that see the world with wonder
The voice of the children dancing out of the womb and into the sunlight

Hail to you Ostara,
You, who are the glorious pressure to transform,
The sweet urge to dance with the winds
The passionate desire become more than we were in the darkness of winter

Hail to you Ostara,
Bringer of Spring
Bringer of Youth
Bringer of Transformation
Bringer of Carrots!

Hail and Nibbles!

ALL: Hail and Nibbles!

The Working

Today we stand on the boundary between winter and summer, between day and night. Today we of the coven and the wicca celebrate Spring Equinox and Ostara – the razors edge between light and dark! Huzzah! Or not... you know, depending on your opinion of razors.

From here the days get warmer; life gets brighter and more exuberant. As the wheel turns with ever flowing surety towards the fullness of summer and the richness of Beltane, we begin to churn with our own need to grow and stretch towards the sun. In honor of this itch to move, we will be planting seeds

Pull out the bag of seeds and show them all off

We have several seedling trays into which many seeds can go – so they have a good place to begin their journey, and several pots into which we can plant a collection of the wildflowers and see what they do.

As you plant your seeds remember that this is sympathetic magic. The physical seeds we plant today will grow into many wonderful plants, flowers, vegetables and herbs. The energetic seeds we plant are up to you. What do you wish to plant for this season of your life? What do you want to harvest in six weeks to six months? What will you need in the fall? What do you wish to bring into your life this year, this month? This season? Take a moment to really think about what you need and what you want for this year.

Pause to let them think.

Now, keep these thoughts in mind with each seed you plant, and plant your dreams along with the physical seeds.

Get folks started picking seeds and planting stuff.

While we are going to plant many seeds, not all will grow to fullness, some will be pushed out of the race by other seedlings with more strength and gumption, but in the end the ones that we need the most and the ones with the strongest will to live will win out and feed us in the harvests to come.

Finish planting seeds.

Time to sing and dance and empower the seeds.

The Lady's Bransle (pron. Brawl)

For She will bring the buds in Spring
and laugh amid the flowers
In Summer's heat, Her kisses are sweet,
She sings in leafy bowers
She cuts the cane and gathers the grain
when fruits of Fall surround Her,
Her bones grow old in Wintery cold,
She wraps her cloak around Her

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Cakes and Wine (aka Kate's LBR of the CB)

*Touch your forehead, intone *Ostara**
*Point down, covering the groin, intone *Eostar**
*Touch right shoulder, intone *Kore**
*Touch left shoulder, intone *Blessed Mary**
*Fold hands at chest, intone *Easter Bunny, Blessed Be**

*Turn to east, draw pentagram, point to center, intone: *Sugar**
*Carry line to south, draw pentagram, point to center, intone *Coco butter**
*Carry line to west, draw pentagram, point to center, intone *Cacao**
*Carry line to north, draw pentagram, point to center, intone *Cream**
Carry line to east, completing circle, return to center.

All Say:

Before me, Cadbury;
Behind me, Hershey's;
On my right hand Scharffen Berger;
and on my left hand Godiva.
For about me flames the Divine Chocolate Bunny,
and within me shines the Goddess of Spring.

HPS breaks off a bit of bunny for the libation and says:

HPS: To the bunnies (and the gods)!
All: To the bunnies (and the gods)!

P/Ps pass out the cakes & wine

HPs: Now we EAT!

Circle closing

HPS and/or HP:

Our ritual is now ended, and it is time to say good bye.
Let us take the light and laughter we have shared
And spread it among our nestlings and burrow-mates
Bright blessings and joy be with you!
And abundant Carrots for All!

Dismissing the Quarters:

East:

Scampering Bunnies of the east
We thank you and your yellow peeps for guarding our Circle and witnessing our rites!
Hail and good nibbles!

All respond: Hail and good nibbles!

South:

Scampering Bunnies of the South
We thank you and your pink peeps for guarding our Circle and witnessing our rites! Hail
and good nibbles!

All respond: Hail and good nibbles!

West:

Scampering Bunnies of the West
We thank you and your blue peeps for guarding our Circle and witnessing our rites! Hail
and good nibbles!

All respond: Hail and good nibbles!

North:

Scampering Bunnies of the North
We thank you and your green peeps for guarding our Circle and witnessing our rites!
Hail and good nibbles!

All respond: Hail and good nibbles!

Opening the circle:

The Priestess/Priest casting the Circle says:

No more are we set apart from the world of bunnies or men,
Sharing jelly beans on the edge between burrow and farm land.
Let the spirit world know that the garden gate is closed,
The carrots of power and mighty peeps put away,
Until next we meet to greet them and the Great Mother Rabbit.
So mote it be!

HP & HPS:

The circle is open, but unbroken.
The God and Goddess bless their children.
Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again!