

Antheia

Honoring: Demeter and Persephone

Date: During Mounichion in the deme of Thorikos; date unknown in the deme of Paiania

Season: When wheat flowers bloom

Region: Attested in the demes of Thorikos and Paiania

The ritual should be held in the garden, near the flowering plants.

Items needed

- Bowl of water and stick (incense, punk, or natural) to light and douse
- Bowl of barley
- Offerings—a barley drink such as beer or ale (alcoholic or not) would be appropriate
- Libation bowl
- Cup

Procession

Assemble and prepare to process to the altar.

We go to the holy place with reverence and love, to honor the gods.

Purification of participants

Light a stick and extinguish in the bowl of water, creating lustral water.

May all be made pure who wash in this water.

Pour water over the hands of each person so that they may rinse their face and hands in the lustral water.

Purification of space

Pass bowl of barley among the participants so that each may take a handful of barley.

May all that is profane be gone from here!

Each person throws barley onto the altar, gently if indoors, with force if outside.

Invocation

We call to Demeter, mistress of the stone and sod,
granter of growth, provider of fruit and grain,
whose mercy and goodness are known the world over,
whose tales have been told many years, many seasons.
We call to fair Kore, daughter of the earth,
goddess born, goddess wed, holder of mysteries,
bearer of secrets, you who are seed and shoot,
flower and fruit, bright maid and gentle queen.
As the grain unfolds, so fair in form, we call to you,
O goddesses, we ask your blessing on our work.

If ever we have honored you, poured out sweet wine
in reverence and love, O great ones, deathless ones,
hear now our prayers, grant now your blessings. Praise be to you!

Statement of purpose

As the seed is the pledge of Demeter , the flowering is her sign. We gather today before
the goddess' promise, with love and reverence for your might, with gratitude for your
goodness.

Ritual body

Gracious Demeter and fair-haired Kore, great
goddesses of field and flower, we praise your goodness
and your bounty. In this time of waiting, we thank you
for the strength you lend our labor, we thank you
for the life you lend our land. In the flourishing
of fruit and grain we see our own lives granted
once again. To you whose hand is ever upon
the lives of men, whose will it is that we survive
or thrive, we pray to you for your continued blessing.

Libations and offerings

Pour liquid offering into cup, hold up filled cup.

To noble Hestia, who ever comes first and last,
We offer this drink; all praise to you, O Hestia!

Pour out some drink into the libation bowl; hold up cup, refilling if necessary.

To Demeter by whose will we live and thrive,
We offer this drink; all praise to you, O Demeter!

Pour out some drink into the libation bowl; hold up cup, refilling if necessary.

To Kore whose journey tells an eternal tale,
We offer this drink; all praise to you, O Kore!

Pour out some drink into the libation bowl; hold up cup , refilling if necessary.

To noble Hestia, who ever comes last and first,
We offer this drink; all praise to you, O Hestia!

Pour out some drink into the libation bowl; hold up cup, refilling if necessary.

We share this drink among ourselves with love for the gods
and gratitude for all we have been given.

Pass the cup among the participants.

Thanks

We thank you, O gods, for your presence this day
as we celebrate your festival with reverence and joy.
We thank you, O gods, for your many blessings,
for the great gifts you grant to men and women.
With love and devotion we praise and honor you.

Close

We leave this holy place, with reverence and gratitude for all we have been given. The rite is ended.