

# Chloeia

**Honoring:** Demeter Chloe and Kore

**Date:** 6 Thargelion

**Season:** When the first green shoots appear

**Region:** Athens

## Items needed

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

The ritual should be held in the garden, near the new shoots.

## 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 new sprouts pierce the yielding soil 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**

We gather now, as the green shoots emerge from the soil and we see with our own eyes  
the might of Demeter and her daughter, fair and gentle Kore, to praise the goddesses  
and to thank them for this their gift to us, for without the grace of the goddesses our hard  
work would be for nothing.

## **Ritual body**

*Hold up the pitcher of water*

To great and gracious Demeter and Kore  
we offer our thanks and our words of praise; goddesses,  
we see in slips of green your power revealed before us.  
Demeter Chloe of the new-grown fields, Kore  
who dances in the soft grass, we honor you.  
As a sign of our faith and our ready will  
to work, we pour sweet water on these tender shoots.  
Goddesses, we pray to you, lend now your might  
to our toil, grant now your blessing to our labor.

*Pour water on new shoots.*

## **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.