

Kalamaia

Honoring: Demeter and Persephone

Date: Uncertain, harvest season

Season: Season of reaping grain

Region: Athens

Items needed

- Bowl of water and stick (incense, punk, or natural) to light and douse
- Bowl of barley
- Offering—basket of food you have harvested
- Libation—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.

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 the 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 we receive your gracious gifts 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 have seen the time of sowing; we have seen the time of growing; we have seen the time of harvest, the work of our own hands once more rewarded, the goodness and might of the gods once more proven. We gather now to praise the two goddesses, Demeter and Kore, and to thank them for the most needful of gifts.

Ritual body

Hold up the harvest basket.

We call to Demeter, who took the wild grass, supple
and thin, who made of it a good and wholesome food;
we call to Kore, whose might is in the seed
and the sprout, the flower and the fruit. Goddesses
two who rule the realm of farm and homestead, soil
and stone, who grant to mankind the best of blessings,
we thank you for these your gifts, and we give to you
in return the first of our harvest, with love
and reverence. We thank you, O goddesses,
for that which sustains us; we praise your kindness
and your compassion, your grace and your glory.

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,
I 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.