



What to Expect at Temenos Oikidios Rituals

Our Ritual Structure:

The following is a general order of the ritual that we follow which is based on elements from the Ancient Greek sacrifice ritual as described by Walter Burkert in his book Greek Religion. Some elements have been added to represent our group's current practices & practical reasons. Rituals usually take between 45 minutes to an hour and are followed by feasting and fellowship. Some rituals contain special elements such as hymn reading, games, or guided imagery.

1. Centering and Gathering Prayer
2. Procession (digitally or physically) to the altar
3. Purification & Washing of Hands
4. Lighting the Sacred Fire of Hestia
5. Calling the Gods
6. The Sacrifice
7. The Divination
8. Sacred Things
9. The Libations
10. Theoxenia or Feast and Fellowship



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Attending Rituals:

1. Things that You Will Need:
 - a. If attending in person:
 - i. A cup or drinking vessel
 - ii. Food to share in the feast
 - iii. A drink offering or libation
 - b. If attending online:
 - i. Tech: A computer and access to hi-speed internet. For best results, try to get as close to your router as possible. A webcam and/or headset with microphone is encouraged for best results, but not required.
 - ii. Ritual Items: A dish of water for washing your hands, offering (bread, incense, herbs, candle, or votive offering), ritual knife, libation, food to offer and enjoy in the feast.
2. Prior to the ritual, download the liturgy from the event webpage. This will usually be posted the morning of the event. If you are attending online, make sure that you have the Zoom® app installed on your computer and that it is working properly.
3. Arrival Time:
 - a. If attending the ritual online, you will receive a link to the temple's Zoom Meeting Room about 1 hour prior to the start of the rite. You will want to join about 15 minutes prior to the ritual starting to make sure all tech is working properly.
 - b. If you are attending the ritual in person, you will want to arrive about 30 minutes before the ritual starts.
4. Running Late?
 - a. Our rituals start promptly at 2:30 PM EST. Once the rituals have begun, we will enable a waiting-room in our Zoom meeting room.
 - b. If you arrive to the ritual late, you will be placed in the waiting room and the priest will welcome you when there is an appropriate time in the rite to do so. While in the waiting room, take some time to center yourself and wash your hands before entering sacred space & time.
5. During the ritual:
 - a. If you are online, please mute yourself while you are not speaking a prayer. This will avoid excess noise in the room. The priest reserves the right to mute all participants if they see fit.



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- b. It is customary to maintain sacred silence during ritual so that we can hear any messages the Gods may speak to us during the prayers and ritual actions. If you are not speaking a prayer or engaging in a ritual action, please refrain from conversations and comments. This will help everyone stay in the moment.
- 6. After the ritual is over:
 - a. We will move to the feasting table. Please note that even though we are not at the altar that the Gods and Goddesses we have called are still in the temple and may interact with us through omens or inspiration. The main altar will be open for participants to visit during the feast to spend personal time. A set of noise-cancelling headphones are placed next to the altar if you wish to have more privacy during your meditation. If you choose to use these, please use the alcohol wipes to sterilize them when you are done.
 - b. If you are attending via Zoom, a separate break-out room will be created for the feast and festivities. This way participants may spend personal time with the Gods and Goddesses of the festival if they wish. When you are ready to return to the feast, simply message the host and you will be returned to the feast/festivities.