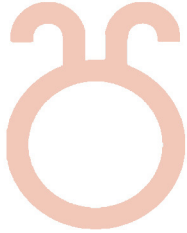


MARCH 21
spring equinox



ALTAR DECORATIONS
eggs, bunnies, baskets,
chicks, budding twigs,
a cauldron of Spring
Water, spring flowers,
four-leaf clovers, sprout-
ing bulbs

COLORS
light greens, yellows,
blues and pinks

HERBS AND FLOWERS
clover, violet, lilac, lily,
tansy, peony, narcissus,
jonquil, mint Irish moss,
lemongrass, crocus

TREES
elder, willow

INCENSE AND OILS
cedarwood, patchouli,
sandalwood, jasmine,
geranium, helichrysum
lime, vetiver, lemon-
grass, wild orange, tan-
gerine, Yang-Ylang

CRYSTALS AND STONES
bloodstone, aquamarine,
clear quartz, agate

ANIMALS
rabbit, hare, lamb,
robin, chick

SPELLWORK
improving communica-
tion, new beginnings,
fertility, abundance,

Ostara

A celebration of renewal and duality

Ostara is a pagan celebration of the German goddess Eostre and the origins of the Christian celebration of Easter. Eostre/ Ostara is depicted as a fertility goddess and a goddess of Spring, dawn and light.

Modern pagans have generally accepted the spelling Ostara, which honors this goddess as the word for the Vernal Equinox. Ostara is celebrated on the spring equinox, when day and night are equal.

Blossom by blossom the Spring begins

The year is now waxing The Sun becomes stronger and the days are becoming longer and warmer. The earth reawakens to a new season of life-giving gifts. Ostara brings the energy of light, hope, fertility, growth, and new beginnings. This is the perfect time to plant seeds for the future and to celebrate the balance of all things: male and female, physical and spiritual, life and death, thought and action. Ostara is a great time to freshen up your home and life.



*Here comes Peter Cottontail,
hopping down the bunny trail.
Hippy, hoppity, Eostre's on its way!*

Hare is a symbol of immortality. It is also a major symbol for fertility and abundance as the hare can conceive while pregnant. Over the centuries the symbol of the Hare at Ostara has become the Easter Bunny.

According to a popular myth, Ostara was capable of turning into a rabbit herself. Because rabbits are nocturnal, they are connected to the moon, and thus so is the goddess of spring and fertility.



The Clover

The clover is associated with Ostara because it is the green of new life. The three-leafed variety was sacred to the Triple Goddess.

The four-leafed clovers are considered lucky as they represent the four elements and also a symbol of the sun wheel.

The Hot Cross Bun



The hot cross bun has roots with the Celts and is an offering to Eostre. They were adopted by Christians. The cross represents the four seasons and the phases of the moon.



The Egg

Eggs are a symbol of fertility and new life which were decorated to honor the Goddess. They also represent abundance, and the sun.

Make a wish

While dyeing the eggs, women and children would think carefully on their hopes and wishes for the coming year. They would then bury the eggs alongside a seedling in the ground to sustain and feed the plant through its growing season. As the plant grew, the hope or wish would also take root and come to fruition at the end of the year.

ASTROLOGY

Northern Hemisphere



Ostara belongs to Pisces initially. The sign of the fish is fluid, and their vision is broad. Many Pisceans are old souls who see the truth that others try to hide. This vision is a gift for Spring. We enter with fresh understanding and an opportunity to really integrate the lessons from Winter.

On the heels of a water sign, Aries comes in with a blazing fire. Since this is a Sun celebration that only seems apt. Aries represents optimism, confidence, embracing challenges and lots of energy. If there is one word for Aries, it's dynamic. Aries is ruled by Mars and the element of fire, so this sign ushers the way for us to really take action, tie up loose ends and engage in social events that celebrate the Season.



Southern Hemisphere



In the Southern Hemisphere, we find Virgo high in the sky. It is ruled by Mercury and the Earth element. This sign offers the gift of practicality this season. It encourages playful engagement with animals, eating seasonal foods, listening to nature's messages, remembering self-care, and taking things slow and methodically. The beauty of Virgo energy is that it helps us see Spring with a child's wonderment.

By the 23rd we've moved into Libra ruled by Venus and the Air Element. Libra symbolizes the social nature of Spring. The energies are gentle, fair, harmonious, outdoorsy and peace loving. Due to being ruled by Venus, love is often in the air when this sign rolls around. But it is not loved just for a person but for great art, moving music and the simple beauty of the Mother.



OSTARA MAGICAL INVOCATION

Pick up a bowl of flower petals and feathers, and begin walking the circle, sprinkling them along the perimeter. Stop at each compass point, lighting an appropriately scented stick of incense at each quarter point as you invoke that power.

East

Sylphs and Spirits of the Winds,
I call to you.
Come to this place with the ancient song
of air on your wings.

South

Salamanders and Spirits of Fire,
I call to you.
Come to this place to warm the winds of spring
and give life to the magic.

West

Undines and Spirits of Water,
I call to you.
Come to this place with salty sea air
that motivates the tides of inspiration.

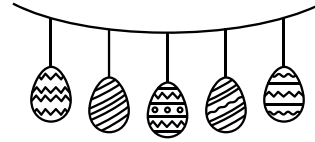
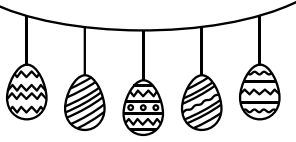
North

Gnomes and Spirits of Earth,
I call to you.
Come to this place with the living magic that abides
in each grain of soil, and within my soul.

Center

Guardians and Great One,
I call to you.
Come to this place with creation's power.
Bind the elements into one and bear
the magic safely to its mark.





EOSTRE'S BLESSING

INGREDIENT

- A candle (preferably in a pastel color such as pink, green, or light blue)
- A small offering (such as flowers, honey, or grains)
- A quiet and peaceful space

WHEN TO USE THIS SPELL

Eostre's Blessing is a beautiful way to connect with the energy of spring, seek the goddess's guidance, and invite her blessings into your life. It's a reminder of the renewal and growth that this season brings, both in the natural world and within ourselves.



DIRECTIONS

1. Begin by finding a quiet and peaceful space where you won't be disturbed. Light your chosen candle, which represents the light and warmth returning to the world with the arrival of spring. Sit comfortably and close your eyes, taking a few deep breaths to center yourself.
2. As you breathe, envision the gentle and nurturing presence of Eostre surrounding you. Imagine the beauty of the natural world awakening from its winter slumber, with flowers blooming, trees budding, and birds singing. Feel the energy of renewal and growth permeating the air.
3. Speak or think these words from your heart:
4. "O Eostre, goddess of the spring, Bless this sacred season that you bring. With the return of light and life anew, I honor you with gratitude and love true.
5. As the earth awakens from its sleep, In your embrace, its secrets you keep. Grant me your blessings, so pure and bright, Fill my life with joy and renewed light.
6. Guide me through the seasons that unfold, With your wisdom, may my spirit be bold. Eostre, goddess of fertility and grace, Bless me in this sacred space."
7. Offer your small offering to the goddess, whether it's a few drops of honey, a handful of grains, or a bouquet of fresh flowers. As you do so, express your intentions and desires for the coming season.
8. Sit in quiet contemplation for a few moments, feeling Eostre's presence and the blessings of the season. When you are ready, thank the goddess for her presence and extinguish the candle.



Ostara Solitary Ritual

The Spiral Journey

Whether we're dancing with friends or journeying on our own, we can all benefit from the direct symbolism of the spiral: right in, and right back out. Nothing says rebirth any more clearly. In the Spiral Journey described below, you're not exploring your own individuality as you do in a labyrinth; you're connecting directly with the universal journey through life, into death, and back through rebirth.

Supplies:

- altar
- bowl of salt
- bowl of honey
- long burning incense
- Cakes and ale
- seasonal flowers

If you have a round altar, place it at the center of the space you'll be using. If you don't have a round altar, set a plate, a rug, or anything else round at the center. On it, set a bowl of salt, a bowl of honey, and some long-burning incense. At or near the point where you'll be starting and ending your journey—and this should be at the Northeast—set up another table to hold "Cakes and Ale." Decorate this table with lots of Spring flowers. Using silk ones is alright, but it's even nicer if you can manage a few fresh, fragrant ones too.

You don't have to cast a Circle unless you want to, but it's a good idea to call the Directions, just to keep yourself oriented as you circle inward and out again. Calls like these will work well if you have none of your own you want to use.

"Hail, East, where breaks the dawn, where dawns the day of journeying."

"Hail, South, where bright is noon, where midday balances midnight."

"Hail, West, where sets the sun, where dies the day, trails vanishing."

"Hail, North, where shines the rune, where rebirth is my soul's birthright."

Most Spiral Journeys I've been part of begin to the dancer's or walker's left, which makes you go deosil to the center. This is appropriate: Mortal life does indeed follow the sun to its end. When we are reborn, we are coming away from death, not banishing death, but shedding death, leaving it behind—as a newborn baby doesn't banish the womb, but sheds its amniotic skin, or as a young adult doesn't banish the family home, but leaves it behind when she or he moves to a new apartment.

However, doing it the other way around (so to speak) may make sense to you: You are shedding this life as you return to the womb of the mother at the center of the spiral, and taking on a new life when you walk back to the outer edge. This ritual will have more meaning for you if you think about the significance of the direction you'll walk, and make your own decision. Think about it ahead of time, though, so that you're sure of yourself when you start out!

You should walk your Spiral Journey slowly, and you should circle the center at least four times (once for each season). Instead of thinking about the details of your life that make you unique, think about all of your connections to life, the universe, and everything as you walk. Hum if you like, or beat a drum in a heartbeat rhythm, or, before you start, put music on, very softly, in the background. (You should not be "grooving to the beat" of the music while you walk, you should be grooving to the beat of life's cycles.)

When you reach the center, do not stop. Walk around the center at least three times, once tasting salt (the bitterness of death), then wafting the incense around you, and finally, before you start back into the world again, tasting honey (the sweetness of rebirth). There's really nothing you need to say. You're

at the center. You're in the womb of the Goddess, where you experience death and life as the continuum they make. Their symbols, salt and honey, are on the same "altar" before you, and you partake of both, metaphorically in the same breath (of incense). Words are unnecessary. Being is enough.

Now, just as slowly as you walked in, turn around and walk out again, following the same spiral path. Again, go around at least four times before you emerge from the spiral path. Again, think not about your personal rebirth—there's time to contemplate that later—but about life's rebirth. The Sun was "reborn" at Yule, the God began to leaf out again at Imbolc, and now, at Ostara, the complex cycle of rebirth is complete as the animal kingdom adds its experience to the rest. Think about this "grand scheme of things," and how wonderful it is to be part of it.

When you reach your starting point, take a moment to appreciate that your original starting point has become the "end" of your journey, while just a few minutes ago, what seemed at first to be the "end" of your journey became your starting point. That's how it works, every time, and it just worked that way for you, right there in your own living room or basement or backyard.

Now, consecrate your Cakes and Ale, and have something to eat and drink. You may need to ground, and Cakes and Ale will help. Eating and drinking also reorients you: You're back in the phase of life's cycle where you do need to eat and drink, and at the time of year when your physical powers are growing, waxing like the Sun's powers.

Remember to share some of your feast with the Gods, whether you have invoked Them or not. When you're finished—and take a few minutes, if you need to—you can acknowledge the Directions again. It's always best to speak from your heart or to prepare your own calls and dismissals, but it's alright to borrow those you read and like, too.

"Hail, East, the rising sun, the sun that lit my journeying."

"Hail, South, where strength was bright, where noon was balance for the night."

"Hail, West, where set the Sun, where rested life, replenishing."

"Hail, North, where shone the rune, where rebirth was my soul's birthright."

This done, take one of the fresh flowers from your "altar" and put it with the portion of Cakes and Ale you've offered to the Goddess and God. Take another one and pin it in your hair, or tuck it in your shirt pocket or a buttonhole, and wear it for at least an hour. If you can, go outside and enjoy the day now; if it's too late for that, get up early and spend some time outside tomorrow morning.

Tomorrow morning would be a good time to take the Ostara Vow, too.

The Ostara Vow

*"The Wheel turns on; 'tis Ostaratide:
Dusk and dawn abreast now ride.
Bright and dark, quiet and clamor;
tinder and spark, reserve and enamor.
This balance I vow to make my own;
poise will allow my pow'r to be known.
From balance, the Wheel now turns toward light.
With grace and steel, I affirm the same right."*



Ostara Egg Colors



Grass Green - Fertility,
Eco-magick, Rituals to honor the
Earth Goddess and Woodland God,
Good Fortune, Personal Beauty

Robin's Egg Blue - Purification, Chastity

Yellow - Wealth, Health, Intellect,
Communication, Astral Travel



















Lavender - Love and Romance, Healing

Pink - Romantic Love, Household Peace

Blood Red - New Life Rituals,
Goddess Rituals, Vigor and Vitality,
Lust and Passion, Strength,
Courage

Rune Magic

Runes are an alphabetic script that can be used in spell work or a means of divination either way runes serve as a system of symbols used for magic and divination making a powerful magical tool. Working with runes, weather it's writing one rune or combining two or more to make a script. The very act of writing something with runes is a spell in itself.

	Fehu: Good Fortune, Wealth, Luck, Creative Energy.		Eiwaz: Outgoing, Dynamic, GO!, Hunting, Evolution, High Energy.
	Uruz: Strength, Higher Self, Determination, Health.		Pertho: Secret, Discovery of Hidden Truths or Objects, History.
	Thurisaz: True Will, Matter of Form, Chaos, Conflict.		Algiz: Protection, Shield, Help, Rainbow Conductor.
	Ansuz: Wisdom, Occult, Power, Healing.		Sowulo: Healing, Strength, Centering, Luck.
	Raido: Defense, Take Control, Journey, Decisions.		Telwaz: Justice, Legal Matters, Dedication, Bravery.
	Kenaz: Learning, Quest, Hereditary Knowledge.		Berkana: Women's Mysteries, Birth Process, Emotional Stability.
	Gebo: Agreements, Settlements and Union, Boundaries.		Ehwaz: Shapeshifter, Telepathic Links, Adjustment.
	Wunjo: Blessings, Controlling Will, Success, Fertility.		Mannuz: Communication, Cooperation, Legal Affairs.
	Hagalaz: Drastic Change, Disruptive Forces.		Laguz: Occult, Sex, Influence, Movement.
	Nauthiz: Need, Future, Victory, Opportunity, Defense.		Inguz: Astral, Vessel, Grounding, Progression, Fertility.
	Isa: Standstill, Defense to delay, Crystals.		Othila: Centering, Grounding, Invoking, Values, Family, Home, Kundalini.
	Jera: Gentle gestation and change, Cycle, Time.		Dagas: Rendered Invisible, Catalyst, between the Worlds.

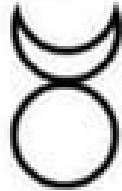
Witchy Symbols and Meanings

Pentagram



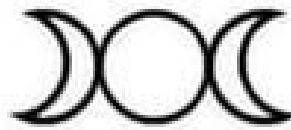
Represents the five elements; earth, air, fire, water and spirit. The upward-pointing star represents the triumph of the spirit over matter and earthly desires.

Horned God



Symbolizes masculine energy. Represented by a circle topped with a horn. In practice, this symbol is used to connote masculine energy.

Triple Moon



Represents the moon and phases of the moon as well as the phases of womanhood (maiden, mother, crone). Also known as the triple goddess.

Hecate's Wheel



Represents the three aspects of the Goddess Maiden, Mother, and Crone. Symbol for transmitting energy, and knowledge through divine forces.

Ankh



Represents everlasting life. The ankh is protective and connects us to all of our past and future lives.

Triskelion



A symbol of movement, progress, cycle and action. It is protective, acts as a guide to the otherworlds, and brings great power.

Spiral



Represents fertility, and feminine power. A visual reminder for women to welcome the unique power they hold.

Triquetra



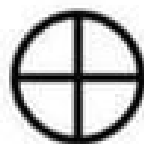
Represents the triple goddess and the three realms: earth, wind, sky or mind, body, soul or the cycle of life, death, and rebirth.

Witch's Knot



Also known as the Magic Knot and the witch charm. Commonly used as a means of protection, banishing or warding off evil.

Solar Cross



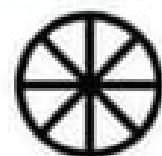
Represent the sun, the earth, the four seasons, or the four elements. Used in spell work for protection, and connecting with higher self.

Unicursal Hexagram



Variation of the 6 pointed star which represents unity and balance. Used in spell work that involves banishing or invoking elemental forces.

Wheel Of The Year



A symbol of the eight Sabbats which includes four solar festivals and four seasonal festival.

Ostara Tarot Spread For Coming Changes

This tarot spread is a quick and easy way to get some input on what kind of changes are in store for you this spring. It doesn't matter what type of tarot deck you use, just make sure you start off by making sure it is shuffled extremely well, particularly if it is a new deck. Cut the deck into three piles and then choose which pile you want on top, in the middle, and then on the bottom.

Choose a total of eight cards, two columns with four cards in each column. Work left to right when placing the cards down (not top to bottom). The four cards on the left will be major changes or challenges. The cards on the right will give you information about the outcome for each of the changes. If you have questions regarding the changes or the outcomes, you can use additional cards as clarifiers until you feel you have enough information.

When doing card readings or other types of divination at this time of year, you want to focus on certain questions that tie in with the energies of the season. Asking about changes and new beginnings are a good idea. Other topics to ask about right now would be anything related to gardening, fertility, growth, life, light, love, or any other type of rebirth or renewal.

Use this time of renewal and rebirth to get yourself straightened out, in balance, and on the right path to a happy, healthy life.

1
Change

1
Info

2
Change

2
Info

3
Change

3
Info

4
Change

4
Info