

Winter Solstice Celebration: Vespersal Nembutsu Rite

[First Smudge the facility and all participants, then do the Extensive Water Bowl, Incense and Light Offerings, and then the Mandala Offering]

[All present may light a lamp on behalf of an Intention / Special need or for themselves, and leave an envelope offering.]

[All take their places]

Taking Refuge and Generating Bodhichitta

A:/ I go for refuge until I am enlightened

To the Buddha, The Dharma, and the Supreme Assembly.

By my practice of giving and other perfections,

May I become a Buddha to benefit all sentient beings. (3X)

The Four Immeasurables

R:/ How wonderful it would be if all sentient beings were to abide in equanimity, free from hatred and attachment, not holding some close and others distant.

May they abide in equanimity.

Please, Guru-deity, bless me to be able to do this.

How wonderful it would be if all sentient beings had happiness and the causes of happiness.

May they have happiness and its causes.

I myself will cause them to have happiness and its causes.

Please, Guru-deity, bless me to be able to do this.

How wonderful it would be if all sentient beings were free from suffering and the causes of suffering.

May they be free from suffering and its causes.

I myself will cause them to be free from suffering and its causes.

Please, Guru-deity, bless me to be able to do this.

How wonderful it would be if all sentient beings were never separated from the happiness of higher rebirth and liberation.

May they never be separated from these.

I myself will cause them never to be separated from these.

Please, Guru-deity, bless me to be able to do this.

Purifying the Place

P:/ Everywhere may the ground be pure, free of the roughness of pebbles and so forth. May it be in the nature of lapis lazuli light, and as smooth as the palm of one's own hand.

May human and divine offerings, actually arranged and mentally created, clouds of finest Samantabhadra offerings, Fill the entire space.

Offering Cloud Mantra

A:/ Om Namō Bhagavata Vajra sara pramardane / Tathagataya / Arhate Samyasam Buddhaya / Tadyatha / Om vajre vajre / Maha vajre / Maha teja vajre/ Maha vidya vajre / Maha Bodhichitta vajre / Maha Bodhi mando pasam kramana vajre / Sarva Karma avarana visho dhana vajre Svaha. (3 X)

Extensive Power of Truth

P:/ By the power of truth of the Three Rare Sublime Ones, the blessings of all the buddhas and bodhisattvas, the great wealth of the completed two collections, and the sphere of phenomena being pure and inconceivable; May these piles of clouds of offerings arising through transformation by the bodhisattvas Arya Samantabhadra, Manjushri, and so forth – unimaginable and inexhaustible, equally the sky – arise and, in the eyes of the buddhas and bodhisattvas of the ten directions, be they received.

Seven-Limb Prayer

A:/ Reverently, I prostrate with my body, speech and mind; I present clouds of every type of offering, actual and imagined; I declare all my negative actions accumulated since beginningless time and rejoice in the merit of all holy and ordinary beings. Please, remain until the end of cyclic existence and turn the Wheel of Dharma for living beings. I dedicate my own merits and those of all others to the great enlightenment.

Short Mandala Offering

(While the priest sprinkles holy water upon the ground, the offerings, and all present. All may infuse their Intentions onto the Mandala as it is carefully passed around)

A:/ Aum Ah Hum. Svha.

P:/ This ground, anointed with perfume, strewn with flowers, adorned with Mount Meru, four continents, the sun and the moon; I imagine this as a Buddha-field and offer it, now. May all living beings enjoy this pure land!

A:/ Idam Guru Ratna Mandalakam Niryatayami!

Praise and Request

A:/ Amitayus, principle guide for this world, Destroyer of all untimely death, refuge for all who suffer without a protector, homage to Buddha Amitayus.

When seeing signs of untimely death, in that second may I see Protector Amitayus, And, by that, conquering the Lord of Death, Yama's power, May I quickly attain the state of an immortal wisdom holder!

Long Mantra of Amitayus

A:/ NAMO RATNA TRA YAYA / OM NAMO BHAGAVATE / APARIMITA AYUR JNANA / SUPINISH
CHITATAYE / JORA JAYA / TATHAGATAYA / ARHATE SAMYAK SAM BUDDHAYA / TADYA THA / OM
PUNYE PUNYE / MAHA PUNYE / APARIMITA PUNYE / AYU PUNYE / MAHA PUNYE / AYUR JNANA /
SARVA RUPA SIDDHI / AYUR SNANA / KE CHE CHRUM / OM BHRUM / AH BHRUM / SVA BHRUM/
HA BHRUM / CHE BHRUM / OM SARVA SAMSKARA / PARI SHUDDHA DHARMATE / GAGANA
SAMUDGATE / SVABHAVA VISHUDDHE / HAHA NAYA PARIVARA YE SVAHA.

Heart Mantra

A:/ OM AMARANI JIVAN TIYE SVAHA. (21 / 108x)

The Futsatu Offering

Gatha of Attonement

A:/ All evil karma ever committed by me since of old, Because of my beginningless greed, anger and ignorance, Born of my body, speech and mind, Now do I atone for them all.

Invocation

A:/ Namó Vairocana Buddhaya

Namó Ratnasambhava Buddhaya

Namó Amitabha Buddhaya

Namó Amosashiddi Buddhaya

Namó Askobhaya Buddhaya

Namó Shakyamuni Buddhaya

Namo Manjusri Bodhisattvaya

Namo Samantabhadra Bodhisattvaya

Namo Ksitigarbha Bodhisattvaya

Namo Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattvaya

Namo Maitreya Buddhaya

Renewal of Vows: The Three Refuges

A:/ I take refuge in the Buddha.

I take refuge in the Dharma.

I take refuge in the Sangha.

(3X)

Renewal of Vows : The Ten Major Precepts

A:/ I undertake the practice to abstain from killing.

I undertake the practice to abstain from stealing.

I undertake the practice to abstain for sexual misconduct.

I undertake the practice to abstain from lying.

I undertake the practice to abstain from intoxication.

I undertake the practice to abstain from discussing the faults of others.

I undertake the practice to abstain from praising self while abusing others.

I undertake the practice of not sparing the Dharma assets.

I undertake the practice of not indulging in anger.

I undertake the practice of not defaming the Three Treasures.

Renewal of Vows – The Bodhisattva Vows

A:/ Beings are numberless; I vow to free them.

Delusions are inexhaustible; I vow to end them.

Dharma gates are boundless; I vow to enter them.

The Awakened Way is unsurpassable; I vow to embody it.

Beings One with All Buddhas

P:/ Being one with the Buddha –

A:/ With all sentient beings, raise the Bodhi-mind. Let the Supreme Way be realized.

P:/ Being one with the Dharma –

A:/ With all sentient beings, penetrate all sutras. Let wisdom be like the ocean.

P:/ Being one with the Sangha –

A:/ With all sentient beings, lead the people. Let harmony pervade everywhere.

P:/ May the merits of maintaining the precepts permeate the Dharma world.

A:/ And may our vows to accomplish the Buddha Way be realized together.

P:/ All Buddhas throughout space and time.

A:/ All Bodhisattva Mahasattvas. Maha Prajna Paramita.

Purification of Mistakes

A:/ OM VAJRASATTVA SAMAYA MANUPALAYA / VAJRASATTVA TVENOPATISHTHA / DRIDHO ME BHAVA SUTOSHOYO ME BHAVA / SUPOSHOYO ME BHAVA / ANURAKTO ME BHAVA / SARVA SIDDHIM ME PRAYACCHA / SARVA KARMA SU CHAME / CHITTAM SHIRIYAM KURU HUM / HA HA HA HA HO / BHAGAVAN SARVA TATHAGATA / VAJRA MAME MUNCHA / VAJRA BHAVA MAHA SAMAYA SATTVA AH HUM PHAT. (3x)

The Foundation of All Good Qualities

R:/ The foundation of all good qualities is the kind and perfect, pure Guru; Correct devotion to him is the root of the path. By clearly seeing this and applying great effort, Please bless me to rely upon him with great respect.

Understanding that the precious freedom of this rebirth is found only once, is greatly meaningful, and is difficult to find again, please bless me to generate the mind that unceasingly, Day and night, takes its essence.

This life is impermanent as a water bubble; Remember how quickly it decays and death does come. After death,, just like a shadow follows the body, the results of black and white karma follow.

Finding firm and definite conviction is this, please bless me always to be careful to abandon even the slightest negativities and accomplish all virtuous deeds.

Seeking the samsaric pleasures is the door to all sufferings; they are uncertain and cannot be relied upon. Recognizing these shortcomings, please bless me to generate the strong wish for the bliss of liberation.

Led by this pure thought, Mindfulness, alertness, and great caution arise. The root of the teachings is keeping the pratimoksha vows: please bless me to accomplish this essential practice.

Just as I have fallen into the sea of samsara, So have all mother migratory beings. Please bless me to see this, train in supreme bodhichitta, and bear the responsibility of freeing migratory beings.

Even if I develop only bodhichitta, but I don't practice the three types of morality, I will not achieve enlightenment. With my clear recognition of this, please bless me to practice the bodisattva vows with great vigor.

Once I have pacified distractions to wrong objects and correctly analyzed the meaning of reality, Please bless me to generate quickly within my mindstream, the unified path of calm abiding and special insight.

Having become a pure vessel by training in the general path, please bless me to enter the holy gateway of the fortunate ones; The supreme Vajra vehicle. At that time, the basis of accomplishing the two attainments is keeping pure vows and samaya. As I have become firmly convinced of this, Please bless me to protect these vows and pledges like my life.

Then, having realized the importance of the two stages, the essence of the Vajrayana, by practicing with great energy, never giving up the four sessions, please bless me to realize the teachings of the holy guru.

Like that, may the gurus who show the noble path and the spiritual friends who practice it have long lives. Please bless me to pacify completely all outer and inner hindrances.

In all my lives, never separated from perfect gurus, may I enjoy the magnificent Dharma. By completing the qualities of the stages and paths, may I quickly attain the state of Vajradhara.

The Final Praise

A:/ Amitayus, principal guide for this world,
Destroyer of all untimely death,
Refuge for all who suffer without a protector,
Homage to Buddha Amitayus.

(Weather permitting, a procession with the Amitabha Thangka can be done, here...with all reciting:

A:/ Amitabha!

Dedication of Merit

A:/ Due to the merit of doing this meditation and reciting the mantra, may I be able to become, without even a minute's delay, the perfect guide, the Infinite Life Buddha Amitayus, and bring every sentient being to the fully enlightened state of Amitayus. Due to these merits, whenever death happens, may I and all sentient beings be able to clearly see the Buddha Amitayus and quickly achieve undying realization.

When seeing signs of untimely death, in that second may I see Protector Amitaus, And, by that, conquering the Lord of Death, Yama's power, May I quickly attain the state of an immortal wisdom holder.

May the supreme jewel bodhichitta that has not arisen, arise and grow; and may that which has arisen not diminish but increase more and more.

Whatever suffering sentient beings experience, may it ripen on me. Whatever merit and its resulting happiness I have accumulated, may others experience it.

Due to all three times merits accumulated by myself, the buddhas and bodhisattvas, and all sentient beings, may my actions never cause even the slightest harm to any sentient being, in any life; instead, may they only bring the greatest benefit. Whatever suffering or happiness I experience in my life, may it always be only the cause for all sentient beings to achieve enlightenment as quickly as possible.

Due to all the merit accumulated in the three times by myself and others, may those beings who merely see, hear, remember, touch, or talk to me be freed in that very second from all their sufferings and abide in happiness forever.

May the lives of the glorious Gurus be long. May all being equaling the extent of space have happiness. May I and others without exception accumulate merit and purify negativities, and may we be blessed to quickly attain Buddhahood.

Due to all the merits of the three times accumulated by myself, the buddhas and bodhisattvas, and all sentient beings, may we not arise heresy even for a second in the actions of the glorious Guru. May we regard whatever actions are done as pure. May we receive the blessings of the Guru in our hearts.

Multiplication of Mantras

A:/ CHOM DAN DA DE ZHIN SHEG PA DRA CHOM PA YANG DAG PAR DZOG PAI SANG GYA NAM
PAR NAMG DZA O KYI GYAL PO LA CHHAG TSHAL LO (3x)

JANG CHHUB SEM PA SEM PA CHHEN PO KUN TU ZANG PO LA CHHAG TSHAL LO (3x)

TADYATHA OM PANCHA GRIYA AVA BODHANI SVAHA OM DHURU DHURU JAYA MUKHE
SVAHA (7X)