



PRAYER IN THE SEVEN DIRECTIONS

LEADER: *while lighting the candle in our midst.* In the Name of the Father, the Beautiful One, and God is your name. And of the Son, the one being fathered. And of the Holy and Beautiful Spirit, the name we call you. Amen
© Translated by Lydia Malcolm

CHANT: Oh Great Spirit, earth sun sky and sea, You are inside and all around us (2x)

LEADER: Let us turn toward our brothers and sisters in the East, the direction of the sunrise.

ONE PARTICIPANT: stands facing the EAST wafting sweet grass smoke towards the community in that quadrant that it may receive the medicine while the leader prays simultaneously:

LEADER: O God of Light, as we look toward the direction of the beginning of a new day filled with the promise of light, knowledge and new beginnings, we give you thanks and we honour You. We give thanks and we honour You. We give thanks for Your Son Jesus, the bright morning star, who entered our humanity through the eastern doorway of life and is the Light of our world and our life. We give you thanks and we honour you. We give thanks for and ask a blessing on the yellow-skinned peoples and our brothers and sisters of the East, for the gifts they bring to us. We especially give thanks for all the little children born today and see the light of day for the first time. May they grow in beauty and strength.

ELDER: Creator God, Gitchi Manitou, awaken in us, with each new day, new hopes, new dreams of love and joy. Light up our lives: light up our hearts. May your light be reflected in our words and in the loving-kindness we show to everyone we meet on our path. Let us never be burdened with sorrow and pain so great that we forget that we can always make a new beginning, just as our brother the sun does every day.

CHANT: Oh Great Spirit, earth sun sky and sea, You are inside and all around us (2x)

LEADER: Let us turn toward our brothers and sisters in the South, the directions of the warm winds and rain that nourish our Mother Earth.

ONE PARTICIPANT: stands facing the South wafting cedar smoke towards the community in that quadrant that it may receive the medicine while the leader prays simultaneously:

LEADER: O God of our forefathers and foremothers, You spoke to your prophets in the gentle winds and soothing rains, we give you thanks and we honour You. Nourish our hearts with your love and compassion. We give you thanks and ask a blessing on the red-skinned peoples, and our brothers and sisters of the South, especially on our women and youth. May our women be courageous and nurture beauty, goodness and dignity in our children..

ELDER: Creator God, Gitchi Manitou, you gave us women as our healing medicine. May their love sustain us on our journey in the sacred circle of life, as Mother Earth nourishes our bodies with healing medicine plants. May we burst forth with new life in Christ and grow close to You, to ourselves, to each other, and to all of creation. May our young people grow strong and healthy in their faith as Jesus in his youth, grew in wisdom age and grace. And may we have compassion on our brothers and sisters just as You have the compassion of a gentle mother on us.

CHANT: Oh Great Spirit, earth sun sky and sea, You are inside and all around us (2x)

LEADER: Let us turn toward our brothers and sisters in the West, the directions of the Thunder Beings out teachers in the sacred circle of life and the direction of the setting sun.

ONE PARTICIPANT: stands facing the West wafting sage smoke towards the community in that quadrant that it may receive the medicine while the leader prays simultaneously:

LEADER: O God, just as you formed us in the darkness of our mother's womb long ago so you will re-form us in the darkness of our journey beyond, where we will become one with you again in the womb of the Father's love. We give thanks and we honour you. We give thanks for their gifts to us and ask a blessing on our black-skinned brothers and sisters of the west. We pray especially for our men, our leaders, our teachers, our ancestors and all those who have gone before us. We especially give you thanks for our Elder Brother, Jesus, who has gone before us, through the doorway of death, yet walks with us still.

ELDER: Creator God, Gitchi Manitou, full of consolation, help us remember that we must decrease and Christ must increase in our lives. Like the setting sun, may we live in such a way that we may leave something of beauty behind for others to follow. We pray especially for our brothers and sisters who today, will cross over through the doorway of death. Just as our mother Earth will wrap their bodies in the blanket of her being, so may you wrap their spirits securely in your love and mercy, as they await the resurrection.

CHANT: Oh Great Spirit, earth sun sky and sea, You are inside and all around us (2x)

LEADER: Let us turn toward our brothers and sisters in the North, the directions of the Great North wind and the direction of our Elders.

ONE PARTICIPANT: stands facing the North wafting tobacco smoke towards the community in that quadrant that it may receive the medicine while the leader prays simultaneously:

LEADER: O God, You cover the earth with a blanket of snow in order to protect the seeding life that is within her. We give thanks for the power of Your Spirit that blows where it will. We also give thanks for and ask a blessing on the white-skinned peoples and our brothers and sisters of the North and their gifts. We especially thank you for our sick, our elderly and the handicapped and the gifts they have to offer us. The white of the snow reminds us of the purity of life to which we are called. It also reminds us of the white hair of our elders who now may be physically weak but who are open to new life from within.

ELDER: Creator God, Gitchi Manitou, may your Holy Spirit blow within and around us that we might set a new Pentecost aflame in your Church. May we have the courage and perseverance to face everything that is harsh and unjust, everything that makes us wince and squint. With the power of Your Spirit may we, like the northern lights, move gracefully in a dance of the Trinity, of unity, peace and harmony. May your beauty infuse the hearts, minds and spirits of our spiritual leaders, our elders and our wise ones.

CHANT: Oh Great Spirit, earth sun sky and sea, You are inside and all around us (2x)

LEADER: Let us turn toward our Mother Earth who provides all that we need for life

ONE PARTICIPANT: stands facing the North wafting a mixture of medicine smoke towards the Earth that it may receive the medicine while the leader prays simultaneously:

LEADER: Creator God, through you, Our Mother Earth provides for us all that we need for life, our food, our medicines, our clothing and our shelter. We give you thanks for our Mother Earth and for all her gifts to us, for the healing plants that can cure us, for our brothers and sisters, for the four-legged creatures and for the flying and swimming creatures too.

ELDER: Creator God, Gitchi Manitou, You who created us in Your own image and likeness, we have not always been respectful of our Mother Earth. We have polluted our waters, the very blood of her being; we have destroyed our non-renewable resources and changed our climate by the way we have used the materials of her being. We ask for your pardon and we choose to repent of our ways. May we learn to respect her and realize that if we do not change we will have no Mother to care for us because we are slowly and rapidly at the same time destroying her life. We ask for all our brothers and sisters on our Mother to repent and transform our ways. For this we give you thanks and we honour You.

CHANT: Oh Great Spirit, earth sun sky and sea, You are inside and all around us (2x)

LEADER: Let us turn toward our Creator God, Gitchi Manitou who is the giver of life for all beings. Let us listen to his/her words.

ONE PARTICIPANT: stands facing the Creator wafting a mixture of medicine smoke towards the Creator that God may receive the medicine while the reader reads simultaneously:

READER: A reading from the book of Isaiah 43:5-7

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the ends of the earth — everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory; whom I formed and made.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Elder: Together, let us pray in the words of our Elder Brother Jesus and in the translated language of the Anishinaabe, An Ojibwe's "Our Father".

Grandfathers and Grandmothers, where you are sitting
Where your name is respected; the one who owes us ...
In that place — where all people are really listening to God,
In heaven and on earth.

Give us our bread, each and every day
Help us not to be troubled by what we did wrong.
And when we hurt someone / the pain they experience; really hurts us too.
We don't want you God to let us have the worst of it.
Redirect the bad things away from us. Amen © Translated by Lydia Malcolm

CHANT: Oh Great Spirit, earth sun sky and sea, You are inside and all around us (2x)

LEADER: *while putting out the candle in our midst.* In the Name of the Father, the Beautiful One, and God is your name. And of the Son, the one being fathered. And of the Holy and Beautiful Spirit, the name we call you. Amen © Translated by Lydia Malcolm

Note: The seventh direction is actually the direction of our own inner self as we take in the medicines in our cleansing.

© Eva Solomon June 14, 2015