

## Ullambana Ceremony

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this Ullambana Ceremony and commemorate the monthly memorial day of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Here, we reverently pray that

All ancestors of every member of this Sangha,

All deceased members,

All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,

And especially (*Read out posthumous names*),

may delight in the taste of the Dharma through the transfer of merit from our sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation and protection, as well as your guidance in all things.

*(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)*

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of  
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast  
Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-  
mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];

The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

*(Strike the gong once.)*

Now, on this occasion of the Ullambana Ceremony and the monthly memorial day of  
Shakyamuni Buddha, we express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra  
recitation.

We reverently offer and transfer the merits of this sutra recitation to

All ancestors of every member of this Sangha,

All deceased members,

All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,

And especially to all those whose first Ullambana is this year,

so that they may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the wondrous fruit of

Supreme Perfect Awakening.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)