

## Ceremony Marking the [*Spring/Autumn*] Equinox

- 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.

Today, members of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this ceremony marking the [*spring/ autumn*] equinox.

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 [*posthumous names/ secular names*],

may delight in the taste of the Dharma through the sutra recitation of this service.

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, the buddhas and bodhisattvas, the guardian and heavenly spirits extend their hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection, as well as their 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, at this ceremony marking the [*spring/ autumn*] equinox, we express our sincere gratitude for the  
Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.  
We reverently pray that through this recitation  
All ancestors of every member of this Sangha;  
All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be;  
And especially to the deceased for whom we conducted this memorial service,  
may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the wondrous fruit of Supreme  
Perfect Awakening.

We also 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.*)

### **Notes**

1. As for the Special Words to Transfer Merit, refer to the examples in the appendix.
2. “Incense offering” can be performed by the sutra recitation leader after the Special Words to Transfer Merit are stated.