

Setsubun-e (Seasonal Celebration)

- 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 Risho 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, in the year of the [*name of the year's star according to the nine-star astrology*] Star, have gathered together to celebrate Setsubun-e, Seasonal Celebration.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

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

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- 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, having welcomed this crisp spring morning by reciting the sutra together, all of us gathered here have purified our six sense organs and renewed our vows.

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.*)

Note

In the second paragraph beginning with “We, members of [*Dharma center name*],” you can omit the phrase “in the year of the [*name of the year’s star according to the nine-star astrology*] Star” if the participants are not familiar with the nine star astrology.