



# First Day of Summer

*...or any day of summer!*

## **Preparations**

*A good time and place for this ritual is outdoors around sunset.*

*During the day, have the family collect symbols of summertime—wild and domestic flowers, weeds, grasses, summer fruits and vegetables, a container of earth, insects, and bowl of water. Gather all the symbols together around a lighted candle. Have a recording of the second movement (“Summer”) of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons playing softly in the background.*

*As the music is playing and the family becomes quiet, invite people to touch each of the symbols reverently. Then, pray Francis of Assisi’s “Canticle of All Creation.” Take turns praying each of the verses while everyone else does the ritual gesture.*

## **Reflecting and Praying**

*Arms and faces raised toward the sky*

Most High, all powerful, all good God! All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing. To you alone, Most High, does our praise belong.

*Face the sun with arms extended*

All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made, and first to Brother Sun, who brings the day, and light you give us through him. How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

*Face the direction that the moon will rise,  
arms extended*

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars, in the heavens you have made them bright and precious and fair.

*Face the direction from which the wind is blowing*  
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind

and Air and Fire and storm, all the weather’s moods, by which you cherish all that you have made.

*Touch the water*

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, lowly, precious and pure.

*Touch the candle*

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten up the night. How beautiful his is. Full of power and strength.

*Touch the ground*

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our Mother. She feeds us in her power and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs. Touch the fruits, flowers, and grasses.

*Put arms around each other*  
All praise be yours, my Lord, through those who grant pardon for love of you, those who endure sickness and trial; happy those who live in peace, they will be crowned.



*All: Praise and bless the Lord and give thanks.*

## **Closing**

*Have the family share personal prayers  
of thanks and praise  
for creation and for the gifts of summertime.*

## **Adapting the Ritual**

*This ritual can be adapted to include a blessing of the family garden if you have one. After a blessing prayer for the seeds and seedlings that have been planted, have each family member water a part of the garden.*



### **Acknowledgments**

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