

Vespers Service

(The Guide lights a small incense 5 minutes before the Service begins. All sit facing the wall. Bell rings 3 times to begin meditation. (All participate in silent meditation.) Bell rings 2 times to end meditation. All turn and face into the meditation hall. The Presenter and Offerer take places for the formal incense offering. Bell rings 3 times to begin Vespers. (Hands remain in anjali for the entire recitation.)

(Spoken by Guide): **The Litany of the Great Compassionate One***

(All recite):

Adoration to the Triple | Treasure!

Adoration to Kanzeon Who is the Great Com | passionate One! ||

Om to the One Who leaps beyond all | fear! :

Having adored [], --- may I enter into the heart of the

Noble, I Adored Kanzeon! ||

[This] life is the completion of | meaning;

It is pure, --- it is that which makes all beings victorious ---

and cleanses the | path of all existence. ||

Om, --- O Thou Seer, --- World-tran | scending One! :

O hail to the | Great Bodhisattva! ||

All, --- all is defilement, defilement, earth, | earth. :

Do, do the | work within my heart. ||

O great Victor, I hold on, hold | on! :

To Indra the Cre | ator I cry! ||

Move, move, my defilement- | free One! :

Come, come, hear, hear, a | joy springs up in me! ||

Speak, speak, give me di | rection! :

Awakened, awakened, I | have awakened! ||

O merciful One, com | passionate One, :

Of daring ones the | most joyous, hail! ||

Thou art all suc | cessful, hail! :

Thou art the great suc | cessful One, hail! ||

Thou hast attained mastery in the | discipline, hail!

Thou hast a weapon with | in Thine hand, hail! ||

Thou hast the Wheel within Thine | hand, hail!

Thou Who | hast the lotus, hail! ||

Hail to Thee Who art the root of e | ternity!

Hail to Thee Who | art all compassion! Hail! || Adoration to the Triple | Treasure! Hail! :

Give ear unto | this my prayer, hail! ||

(Spoken by Guide): **[Hymn to Fudo] Invocation of Achalanatha***

(All recite):

Hail to the Mandala! --- Let us so be engulfed within its praises evermore that, --- by our own wills and vigilance, --- may we our fetters | cut away. ||

May we within the temple of our own hearts dwell --- amidst the myriad | mountains.

|| Hail! | Hail! Hail! ||

(Spoken by Guide): [**Hymn to Daikaku**] *Invocation of Mahakala**

(All recite):

Let us be engulfed within the Mandala of the Sons [Ones] of Buddha. | Hail! || The Arrow of Emptiness. | Hail! ||

(Spoken by Guide): [**Hymn to the Cosmic Buddha**] *Invocation of the Cosmic Buddha**

(All recite): Hail, --- the beneficent Mystic, --- the Treasure. | Hail! ||

(Spoken by Guide): **The Golden Bell that Rings but Once***

(All recite): Peace upon the | pillow. ||m

MAKURA OM, MAKURA OM, MAKURA OM

(Presenter and Offerer return to their meditation places, making gassho to their meditation cushions and then across the hall, and then sit down. Bell rings 2 times to end service. Cued by bell ringer, all meditators take off beads and stoles and place them on the zabuton or floor pad. On cue of the bell ringer, all rise and gassho to meditation place, then across the meditation hall.)

Service Dedication

(Hands in anjali.)

(Spoken by Guide): We offer the merit of this meditation and the recitation of *The Litany of the Great Compassionate One* to _____ and to all so they may realize truth.

Three Homages

(All recite): Homage to all the Buddhas in all Worlds;
Homage to all the Bodhisattvas in all Worlds;
Homage to the *Prāṇā Paramita Hridaya Sutra*.

(Bell Ringer initiates formal prostrations. All exit the meditation hall, led by the Guide and Bell Ringer. The Bell Ringer initiates the final gassho).