

Supreme Celebration of the Lotus Sutra

1. Praise - Dojo-ge
2. Offering - Sanbo-rai
3. Threefold Refuge - excerpt from Universal Sage Sutra
4. Repentance - excerpts from Flower Garland and Universal Sage Sutra
5. Rejoicing in Merits - excerpts from chapters 10 and 17
6. Requesting the Turning of the Wheel of the Dharma - excerpt from chapter 7
7. Petitioning the Buddha to remain in the world - excerpt from Universal Sage Sutra and recitation of chapter 16 and the Odaimoku
8. Dedication of Merit - excerpt from chapter 7
9. Four Bodhisattva Vows
10. Farewell - Buso

Praise - Dojo-ge

This place of awakening, where I am, is like a gem in Indra's net.
All the Three Treasures of the ten directions are gathered here.
These Three Treasures are all before me.
I prostrate myself in homage and raise up the Buddha's feet.

Offering - Sanbo-rai

With all our hearts we revere and worship
the Buddhas throughout the ten directions.
With all our hearts we revere and worship
the Dharma throughout the ten directions.
With all our hearts we revere and worship
the Sangha throughout the ten directions.

Threefold Refuge

Now, through the extremely profound
and wondrous meaning of the Mahayana sutras:
[We take refuge in the Buddha,
We take refuge in the Dharma,
We take refuge in the Sangha.] x3
(TLS, p. 410 adapted)

Repentance - Sange-mon

All my unwholesome actions committed since ancient times,
Due to beginningless greed, hatred, and delusion,
Born of my body, speech, and mind,
Of all this I now fully repent.

(FOS, p. 1512)

Buddhas and bodhisattvas,
Please employ the Dharma water of your wisdom eyes
To wash away our wrongs and purify our vision.

(TLS, p. 396)

Rejoicing in Merits

Shakyamuni Buddha told us, "I also bestow the assurance of Supreme Perfect Awakening upon all of these beings who, after the passing of the Tathagata, hear even a single verse or a single phrase of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma and thereby experience even a moment of rejoicing." (TLS, p. 207, adapted)

He also said, "Those people who have heard that the life span of the Buddha is of such long duration and have been able to experience even a single moment of faith and understanding will attain merits beyond limit and measure." (TLS, p. 289)

Requesting the Turning of the Wheel of the Dharma

Please, World Honored One, roll the Wheel of the Dharma,
Beat the drum of the Dharma, sweet as dew,
Liberate living beings from suffering,
And unfold the Way to nirvana.

(TLS, p. 175)

Petitioning the Buddha to remain in the world

Tathagata, World Hero, you are always present here in this world. Out of heartfelt sympathy, please show yourself to us.

(TLS, p. 395)

Recitation of the Lotus Sutra (Jiga-ge)

Odaimoku chanting

Dedication of Merit

May the merits we have accumulated by this offering
Extend universally to all
So that we and all living beings
Together accomplish the Buddha Way!
(TLS, p. 174, adapted)

Four Bodhisattva Vows

I will cause all living beings to cross the ocean of birth and death if they have not yet done so.
I will cause them to emancipate themselves from suffering if they have not yet done so.
I will cause them to have peace of mind if they have not yet done so.
I will cause them to attain nirvana if they have not yet done so.
(TLS, p. 109)
Odaimoku x3

Farewell – Buso

Honored Ones!
Thank you for joining us,
Be where you wish,
Remember us, and
Please come again out of your compassion for us.

This ***Supreme Celebration of the Lotus Sutra*** is based upon the ancient tradition of the seven-fold worship (S. saptāṅgavidhi) or supreme worship (S. anuttara-pūjā). This form of liturgy has many variants, many of them with more than just seven parts. This Supreme Celebration of the Lotus Sutra is intended to be a short series of reflections that follows the format of the supreme worship using passages from the Lotus Sutra and elements of the standard Nichiren Shu liturgy.

Tiantai (Zhiyi) speaks of a five-fold repentance that has many of the elements of the supreme worship. This five-fold repentance is part of the Lotus Samadahi (a rite of repentance and contemplation) also includes the elements of offering, taking refuge, paying homage, reciting the sutra and sitting in meditation. In the Nichiren Shu there is a ceremony that is an abbreviated version of the Tiantai "Lotus Samadhi"