New Moon Coven Ritual: Casting the Circle

Preparation & Needs
• Altar & Tools: 2 Altar Candles, Water Bowl, Salt Dish, Pentacle, Censer, Athame, Bell, Chalice, Wand
• Lighting: Presence Lamp, 4 Quarter Candles

The Circle Caster waits until the time feels right, then rises to begin.

1. Lighting of the Candle
Light the Presence Lamp.
"I light this Candle in the name of that ancient presence, which is, was, and ever shall be male, female, all-knowing, all-powerful and present everywhere. And in the names of the four Mighty Ones, the rulers of the elements, may power and blessing descend in this hour upon this place and those gathered within the New Moon Coven."

Light the two altar candles, the charcoal or incense, and the four quarter candles from the Presence Lamp.
(Note: If this is an online Esbat or Sabbat, quarter callers light their candles at this time.)

2. Exorcism of the Water
Kneel and place the Water Bowl upon the Pentacle. Plunge the tip of the Athame into the water.
"I exorcise thee, O Creature of Water, that thou cast out from thee all the impurity and uncleanliness of the world of phantasm. In the names of Hermes and Hecate."

3. Blessing of the Salt
Set the Water Bowl aside and place the Salt Dish upon the Pentacle. Touch the salt with the tip of the Athame.
"Blessings be upon thee, O Creature of Salt; let all malignity and hindrance be cast forth from thee, and let all good enter within. Wherefore do I bless and consecrate thee, that thou mayest aid me. In the names of Hermes and Hecate."

Using the Athame tip, add three measures of salt to the water and stir deosil (clockwise) three times.
"But ever mind that as water and salt purifies the body, so the scourge purifies the soul. So mote it be!"

4. Casting the Circle

Draw a continuous circle from North deosil back to North using the Sword (or Athame), circling three times.
"I conjure thee, O Circle of Power, that thou beest a boundary between the world of men and the realms of the Mighty Ones; a meeting place of love and joy and truth; a shield against all wickedness and evil; a rampart and protection that shall preserve and contain the power that we raise within thee. Wherefore do I bless thee, and consecrate thee, in the names of Hermes and Hecate."

Consecration of the Circle with the Four Elements

Sprinkle the consecrated water around the Circle from North deosil back to North, circling three times.
Touch each person within with the water, then be touched in turn by a partner. (If online, sprinkling the water around your own space thrice is permitted). Return the Water Bowl to the altar.

Take up the Censer and cense the Circle from North to North, circling three times.

Calling the Quarters

Stand and salute the East.

East
"Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the East, ye Lords of Air; I, (state name), do summon, stir and call you up, to witness our rites and guard the Circle!"
(Draw the invoking pentagram of Air) “Hail and welcome!”

South
Move to the South.
"Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the South, ye Lords of Fire; I, (state name), do summon, stir and call you up, to witness our rites and guard the Circle!"
(Draw the invoking pentagram of Fire)“Hail and welcome!”

West
Move to the West.
"Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the West, ye Lords of Water; Lords of Death and Initiation; I, (state name), do summon, stir and call you up, to witness our rites and guard the Circle!"
(Draw the invoking pentagram of Water)“Hail and welcome!”

North
Move to the North.
"Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the North, ye Lords of Earth; Boreas, thou Guardian of the Northern Portals; I, (state name), do summon, stir and call you up, to witness our rites and guard the Circle!"
(Draw the invoking pentagram of Earth)“Hail and welcome!”

All turn back to the East and salute.

The Invocation

The Circle Caster says:
”Ye Mighty Ones, Lords of the Watchtowers of the micro and macrocosm, Thou powerful God, thou gentle Goddess, we invite you to our rite.

(pause)

O thou Loving Hermes, O thou Mighty Hecate, we gather before you to spin the wheel and adore the moon. We welcome… [Circle Caster explains the specific intent: Esbat, Sabbat, etc.]."

