

## Formal Meal Verses

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"x" = Clap

(Note: underlined passages are chanted by leader only.)

### Verse upon Hearing the Meal Signal *(do not intone title)*

Buddha was born in Kapilavastu,  
enlightened in Magadha,  
taught in Varanasi,  
entered nirvana in Kushinagara.

### Verse for Setting Out Bowls

Now we set out Buddha's bowls;  
may we, with all living beings,  
realize the emptiness of the three wheels:  
giver, receiver, and gift.

### Ten Buddha Names

In the midst of the three treasures  
which verify our understanding,  
entrusting ourselves to the sangha,  
we recall:

Vairochana Buddha, pure Dharmakaya;  
Lochana Buddha, complete Sambhogakaya;  
Shakyamuni Buddha, myriad Nirmanakaya;  
Maitreya Buddha, of future birth;  
all buddhas throughout space and time;  
Lotus of the Wondrous Dharma, Mahayana sutra.  
Manjushri Bodhisattva, great wisdom;  
Samantabhadra Bodhisattva, great activity;  
Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, great compassion;  
all honored ones, bodhisattvas, mahasattvas;  
wisdom beyond wisdom, maha prajna paramita.

### Food Offering Verse <at breakfast>

This morning meal of ten benefits  
nourishes us in our practice.  
Its rewards are boundless,  
filling us with ease and joy.

### Food Offering Verse <at lunch>

The three virtues and six tastes of this meal  
are offered to buddha and sangha.  
May all sentient beings in the universe  
be equally nourished.

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[Note: when the preceding verses have been chanted, the food is served. Prior to eating, the following verses are chanted:]

### Verse of Five Contemplations

We reflect on the effort that brought us this food  
and consider how it comes to us.  
We reflect on our virtue and practice, and whether  
we are worthy of this offering.  
We regard greed as the obstacle to freedom of mind.  
We regard this meal as medicine to sustain our life.  
For the sake of enlightenment we now receive this food.

### Verse of Food for Spirits <at lunch only>

Oh spirits, we now give you an offering;  
this food is for all of you in the ten directions.

### Bowl-Raising Verse

First, this is for the three treasures;  
next, for the four benefactors;  
finally, for the beings in the six realms.  
May all be equally nourished.

The first portion is to end all evil;  
the second is to cultivate every good;  
the third is to free all beings.  
May everyone realize the buddha way.

[Note: when the preceding verses have been chanted, begin eating. When finished, while washing bowls, chant the following:]

### Verse of the Rinse Water

The water with which we wash our bowls  
tastes like ambrosia.  
We offer it to the many spirits;  
may they be satisfied.  
On ma ku ra sai so wa ka.

### Verse of Purity While Abiding in the World

Abiding in this ephemeral world  
like a lotus in muddy water,  
the mind is pure and goes beyond.  
Thus we bow to buddha.