

AETHER REALM
Season of Bloodshed
December 11, 2026

Soaked in blood and craving more, death metal masters AETHER REALM emerge violently transformed on *Season of Bloodshed*

Soaked in blood and craving more, North Carolina's melodic death metal masters **AETHER REALM** have undergone a violent transformation, emerging with their ferocious new album ***Season of Bloodshed***, to be unleashed December 11th, 2026 via Napalm Records.

Since the band's 2020 album ***Redneck Vikings From Hell***, **AETHER REALM** have held on by the skin of their teeth through a global pandemic, the historic Hurricane Helene, and a mid-record lineup change, with former guitarist Donny Burbage departing and new guitarist Chris Jones entering the fray. ***Season of Bloodshed*** clutches you in its blood-soaked claws and guides you on an intense exploration of an existential transformation fueled by rage.

From its first heartbeats, the album bares its teeth. The vampiric opening track "*The Blood is Calling*" is layered with thunderous kick drums and cataclysmic string arrangements setting the stage for something truly ghastly. Propelled by blast beats from drummer Tyler Gresham, ornate guitar harmonies, and Martin Gonzalez' enveloping orchestrations, the first track is a herald of a new era as the band transforms into something darker.

"*Control*" opens with a triumphant harmonized guitar duel before taking off at 100 miles per hour with virtuoso guitar duo Heinrich Arnold and Chris Jones weaving riff tapestries, embracing listeners in a dystopian dream of the future. Always looking to experiment with the form, "*Broken Fist*" enlists guest vocalist Taj Jewett to lend their rage to a track that fuses nu metal and prog into a showcase of infectiously bouncy grooves and unstoppable riffage.

The aptly titled "*Get Fukt*" is as vitriolic as the title suggests. Bassist and frontman Jake Jones delivers a venomous verbal onslaught alongside driving harmonized riffs clearly developed at the school of Bodom. "*The Weight*" offers the album's first brief respite with serene synths paving the way for another hellish breakdown, tectonic drums crack the ground as flaming guitars emerge from the rubble and lash at the sky. Featuring the impeccable orchestration composer **Wayne Ingram** (known for his work in Wilderun and on Assassin's Creed Valhalla: Dawn of Ragnarok), the track expands into mesmerizing grandeur.

Opening with a serene folksy respite provided by departing guitarist Donny Burbage and violinist Sarah Stepanik, "*Path of The Wind*" emerges as an explosive blackened folk song with singalongs and blasts beats that tells the tale of how the band emerged physically unscathed from Hurricane Helene. Further honoring their southern roots, "*Achilles' Heel*" opens with intimate banjo strums dancing around vocalist

Jake Jones' heartfelt croon, sung from the perspective of Patroclus, the companion of the titular mythological Greek hero Achilles. This bitter song honors the epic with guitar and string orchestrations of equally grand composition, coupled with a chorus that you can't resist stomping your foot to.

Album closer "*Terminus Ominum*," a Latin phrase translating roughly to "The End of All Things", opens with cinematic, Game Of Thrones level pounding drums—courtesy of orchestrator and mix engineer Rob Carson—beating a cataclysmic opening for the record's most expensive track. Enlisting the Western North Carolina Pagan Choir there is a level of finality in the arrangement akin to a Elden Ring boss battle.

Despite the obstacles put in their path, **AETHER REALM** emerges revitalized, determined, and simmering with anger while maintaining their trademark complex melodies and ferocious guitar attack.