LOVE'S SERVICE
(ANNIVERSARY SERVICE)

By Katharine Curzon Lowman,
Past Worthy Matron

Characters Required: Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Associate Patron, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Star Points and Choir containing from four to any number you wish. (Members of the choir may be dressed as nearly as possible in styles worn when your chapter was instituted. In the Chicago Tribune—Sunday edition, September, 1929—have been many colored pictures showing the fashions worn in the years gone by.) Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron may wear styles of year of institution of chapter or present-day mode.

(Music begins.)

Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron enter through door in west and proceed to pulpit (dais in East). Are seated.

Choir flies in through door in the west and goes to seats near the organ or piano All are seated.

Worthy Matron rises and says: "We will open our service with a song by the choir."

Choir rises and sings the following to the tune "Long, Long Ago:"

Soprano sings:
"Tell me a date that to you seemeth dear,
One long ago, long, long ago."

Bass answers and gives the date your chapter was instituted.

Soprano:
"Why does this one seem especially dear?
'Twas long ago, long ago."

Entire Choir:
"Because our chapter was organized then,
Because our loved ones were serving her when
She was established in our town that year,
Long, long ago, long ago.

Entire Choir:
"Do you remember the day that we met,
Long, long ago, long ago?
Our star has taught us what we'll ne'er forget,
Long, long ago, long ago.
Then to all others our star we preferred,
Ne'er we'll betray her, in deed or by word;
Long have we served her, for years may we yet,
Serve and adore, ever more.
All who are members are proud of the fact.

Soprano:
"Oh, yes, 'tis true."

Basses:
"'Twas long ago."
All sing:

"See with what dignity all of them act,
That's how we know this is so.
Now we are here, just to honor our star,
Let none forget that her children we are,
May she have many more birthdays in store,
Yes many more, many more."

Choir is seated.

Worthy Patron rises and says:

"Our lesson for this evening is from the Book-of-Brotherly Acts, first two motives, first five verses:

"Whatsoever ye establish, see thou that it be worthy and capable of endurance.

"Support, with all the force of your might, that which hath been established and see thou that nothing enters therein which defileth or teareth down.

"Serve faithfully, assist gladly, and give your support generously.

"Forget ye not that, that which is worth doing Is worth doing well.

"When, in the course of human events, that which hath been established by you shall have reached the time when it has been shown that it is worthy and has endured, let it be known; honor thou it.

"This selection was written respecting the noble Order of which our chapter is an established part.

"In obedience to the last admonition, 'honor thou it,' we have assembled here this evening. We have been able, through the influence of our dear chapter, to secure as the speaker of the evening, one who is capable of speaking intelligently about our noble Order, especially about that part in which we all are interested and which is dear to us all: ............ Chapter No...... O. E. S., of.............. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you............ (he may give the Worthy Matron's own name, or, if you wish to have a little more fun, he may introduce her as some famous character), who will bring to you the lesson."

Worthy Matron rises to acknowledge the introduction and says:

"Brother.................... sisters and brothers: If you will close your eyes and see, in fancy, a tiny birthday cake on which bravely burns but one wee candle, and also a much larger cake, upon which many candles are brightly burning, which will bring to you the more pleasure?

"True, the larger one shines brighter, but does not the little one seem dear? Perhaps its very smallness makes it seem so.

"Years ago a tiny cake with only one candle would have represented the completion of one year's existence of............ Chapter. It and its funny little birthday cake, topped with only one candle, was dear to all who were members of its family then. Tonight a much larger family enjoys the light of the ........ (number of years) candles which shine to speak of.... years of happy existence and service."

Associate Matron enters through door in the west, at words "tonight, etc.,” bearing the birthday cake on which the number of lighted candles as the chapter is years old. She carries the cake and places it on the altar. (If she prefers she may light the candles after placing it on the altar instead of bringing it in with the candles already lighted.) She leaves cake on altar and goes out the door in the west to return later with the Conductress, Associate Conductress and Star Points.
WORTHY MATRON:

"A candle is burning brightly for each year that our chapter has existed. Each year has some lasting good to its credit, so each candle has a right to burn proudly and brightly.

"As the foundation or cake upon which the candles are standing, is good, so the foundation upon which our chapter stands has been good. For that reason it has stood these ...... years.

"When refreshments are served after service tonight, as food sustains our mortal bodies, may the principles taught by our noble Order sustain us mentally, morally and spiritually."

Conductress, Associate Conductress, Star Points and Associate Matron enter the room through the door in the west. Star Points carry candles of color appropriate to their stations. They may be dressed in crepe paper dresses in color appropriate to them. They go to their stations and remain standing there.

WORTHY MATRON (while they are entering and going to their places):

"All through the years since ......... Chapter was instituted, from the four points of the compass, from the north, the east, the south and west, the assistance of Unerring Mind, the power of Right Authority, the direction of Divine Intelligence, and the spirit of Loving Assistance have come to each meeting of this chapter to govern it rightly and to guard well its growth."

ADAH:

"At each meeting, the Blue ray of our Star has pointed her children to the right way—the way of being faithful to their word even though that faithfulness should seem to result in sorrow or loss." (She raises blue candle at the words blue ray.)

RUTH:

"The Yellow glow (raises candle) from the point of Ruth has been teaching us through these ...... years that the golden light from the sun, the beauty of golden, ripening grain and the gorgeousness of all golden-yellow flowers come to us from the great, golden heart of Love, who, if we gather the good which lies strewn in the pathway before us and are grateful for that good, gives us more, very much more, than we are expecting and searching for."

ESTHER:

"The pure White ray (raises candle) from the third point of our Star has shone through the years, shedding light on the path which leads us, as it led our noble Queen Esther, to forgetfulness of self in acknowledging our true relationship to others. That relationship of being brothers and sisters to all causes us to live above the tongue of malice, not only above that from other tongues, but also above and in control of our own."

MARTHA:

"The green ray of light (raises candle) has kept glowing and alive our faith in the purposes of our Order, in ourselves, and in each other. Because it has been able to do this for ...... years, have we not reason to expect that it shall continue to keep this faith growing and alive?"

ELECTA:

"The Red ray (raises candle) from this station has shed a fervent interest over all the affairs of this chapter. It has caused us to love each other and our Order more and more, with each passing year. May the glowing Red ray of Love’s light ever shed its radiance into our hearts and minds and govern us forever, so that we each shall delight to continue in Love’s service."

As soon as Electa has completed her speech, all turn towards the altar and, raising candles high, say together:

"Oh, rays of light,
So pure, so bright,
Lead us, each one,
They advance simultaneously towards the altar where they place their candles, so they surround the birthday cake, then turn towards the west and go out of the room in single file, Esther leading. (They may go to seats in the room if desired.)

Associate Matron, Conductress, Associate Conductress then advance from their places toward the altar. Associate Matron speaks while they are advancing.

ASSOCIATE MATRON:
"Sisters, do you see them—the colored lights of the Star of Love? The white ray from this one always attracts me strangely. I feel that it speaks to me of the purity, of God's love for His children."

CONDUCTRESS:
"These two colors (blue and yellow) soothe me. They seem to speak of the vastness of the blue sky above me; of the infinite wealth of our heavenly Father's supply, until I no longer feel that everything is limited and that many things are lacking, but that He is speaking to us about, and sharing with us, His abundance."

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS:
"I am always attracted by the Green and the Red rays. Faith and Love, which they symbolize, always lead to a place of safety and security. I feel that I cannot stumble or go wrong while choosing them for my guide.

"Because it is our duty to properly direct all who enter here, let us take these colors into our hearts and in our hands, and with them held always before us we shall always be able to lead others rightly."

Associate Matron takes the cake. (Can also take the white candle if she is able to carry both; if not, leave it.) Associate Conductress and Conductress follow, each carrying the two candles which attracted them. They proceed out of the room through the door in the west while the choir sings to the tune, "Lead, Kindly Light":

"Lead us, sweet rays of colors bright and gay, Lead ever on. The night seems dark when we have lost our way If Thou art gone. Led on by Thee, we shall not miss the road, Led on by Thee, we'll sink beneath no load.

"So long Thy light hast led us, sure it still Will lead us on. Through sorrows deep, and up each rugged hill, Thou will lead on. And through all the years, which are yet to be, Lead Thou us on to certain victory."

ASSOCIATE PATRON:
"We will take the evening's offering at this time. (Enjoys the look of surprise on the faces for a moment, then continues.) "No one who is present is too poor to give an offering of love and appreciation. "However, instead of money we are asking for an offering of words from all who have such a donation to cast into the outstretched arms of our chapter tonight. We shall consider a one minute talk equal to a one dollar offering in coin. Who wishes to be the first to cast in his dollar, or, in other words, who will be the first to speak?"

If you wish to honor your Past Worthy Matrons and Past Worthy Patronists at this time, word your speech so that it will call for speeches from them. Then as they speak, or as their names are called if they are too timid to speak,
you can have the Worthy Matron, Conductress and Associate Conductress, etc., pin ribbon badges on them, or present them with a flower, etc.

After short speeches have been offered and received, the Worthy Patron will say:
"Let us close our service by singing one verse of 'America,' after which all are invited to the dining room for a piece of the birthday cake."

OPEN DOOR MEMORIAL,

If stage and scenery are available, the setting for this ceremony may be that of a walled garden, with opened gate or door near the center.
If presented in the chapter room, latticework may be arranged in the East to simulate the wall or fence and open door.
At either side of the open door may be placed floor baskets or other containers, to hold the flowers to be placed by the officers. In the center, on easel or small table, place a Star-shaped container, to hold the emblematic flowers of the Star Points.

WORTHY MATRON: "The special order of business at this time is our memorial service."
The quartet sings "Going Home," or other appropriate selection.
WORTHY MATRON: "Death is only an open door
Set in a garden wall;
On gentle hinges it gives, at dusk,
When the thrushes call.
Along the lintel are green leaves;
Beyond, the light lies still.
Very weary and willing feet
Go over that sill.
There is nothing to trouble any heart,
Nothing to hurt at all—
Death is only a quiet door
In an old garden wall.
"Sister Secretary, you will read the names and record of those who have 'gone home' during the past year."
The Secretary reads names, date of initiation and date of death. (A row of lighted tapers in the West may be extinguished one by one, as the names are called—or s bell may be tolled at each name.)
(When reading is completed, the Worthy Matron seats the chapter.)
The Chaplain reads the 23d Psalm.
The quartet chants "The Lord's Prayer."
The Associate Matron reads or recites Kipling's "When Earth's Last Picture Is Painted."
Soft music—"The Old Rugged Cross," "In the Cross of Christ," or other appropriate tune—played while officers form cross.
(All the officers except the Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Warder and Sentinel join in forming cross—except that a sister should substitute for the Organist, and one may be named to substitute for the Associate Patron. Led by the Marshal and Chaplain, respectively, followed by the Secretary and Treasurer, and by other officers as their stations are passed, lines march to West, then toward each other until just outside of Esther's station, then East to form cross about the altar. Lines halt with Marshal and Chaplain, then Secretary and Treasurer, side by side, just east of the altar; Adah and
Conductress on South and Electa and Associate Conductress on North of altar; and Ruth and Martha, Esther and (substitute) Organist, and Associate Matron and Associate Patron side by side west of the altar. Each carries white gladiolus spike on right arm— or palm branch or other flowers may be used.)

The Worthy Patron reads 121st Psalm.

Quartet sings "Abide With Me."

(Soft music while officers in cross march to East and place flowers in baskets, continuing to their several stations.)

Star Point officers advance, one at a time, through the labyrinth, bearing emblematic flowers,/recite the following and place their flowers in the container, returning to their stations outside the labyrinth.)

ADAH:
"They heard the voice of one who spake,
Who loved them more than we.
It was the voice of one
Whose call they ever heeded.
Spake the Master,
'Come, thou faithful servant,
Come and rest where cares are ceased'."

RUTH:
"Passing out of the shadows,
Into the purest light;
Stepping behind the curtain, '
Getting a better sight;
Passing out of the shadows,
Into Eternal Day:
Why do we call it dying—
This sweet going away?"

ESTHER:
"We are so selfish about death. We count our grief
Far more than we consider their relief,
Whom the grim reaper gathers in the sheaf,
No more to know the season's constant change;
And we forget that it means only life—
Life with all joy, peace, rest, and glory rife,
The victory won, and ended all the strife,
And heaven no longer far away and strange."

MARTHA:
One time at eve when the tide was low,
They slipped their moorings and sailed away,
With no response to the friendly hail
Of kindred craft in the busy bay.
In the silent hush of the twilight pale,
When the night stoops down to embrace the day,
And voices call in the water's flow—
One time at eve when the tide was low,
They slipped their moorings and sailed away."

ELECTA:
"A few who watched them sail away
Will miss their craft from the busy bay;
Some friendly barks that were anchored near,
Some loving souls that their hearts held dear,
In silent sorrow will drop a tear.
But these shall have peacefully furled their sails,
In moorings sheltered from storms or gales,
And greeted their friends who have sailed before
O'er the Unknown Sea to the Unknown Shore."
Singing by the assembly, "Now the Day Is Over."—The Eastern Star News (N. C.).