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From Violet June Allen
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FOR ESTHER
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,
Hamilton, Missouri.

Worthy Matron speaks:

In the 3rd degree of our Order, we learn the touching story of that noble Queen who was willing to sacrifice her crown and life to save her people from death. Queen Esther chose purity and loyalty rather than royal magnificence and splendor. We are pleased at this time to honor those of our Chapter (or Order) who have brought to us the teachings of this distinguished heroine. Sister Marshal, you will present Esther (or Esthers) for introduction.

When Esther is introduced, Worthy Matron greets her as follows:

It is with pleasure that we bring greetings to you from this Chapter. Your devotion to the duties of your office, and the sincerity with which you have brought to us the lessons of that point of our Star which symbolizes light, purity, and joy, is deserving of our appreciation, and we are happy to honor you because you have been true to the lesson of our heroine. Sister Marshal, you will conduct our Sister to position west of Altar.

Marshal conducts Esther to position by passing between stations of Martha and Electa. If several Esthers are present, semicircle may be formed west of Altar, leaving room for ceremony of other officers. As soon as Esthers are in position, Secretary, Marshal, (someone substituting as Marshal) Chaplain, and Treasurer with flowers, approach Altar, the two marching together on north, and the two on south. When opposite Altar they stop and one of the four addresses Esther (or Esthers) as follows:

Queen Esther, fairest of the fair
You did not shun the cause of right,
But willingly you risked your crown
To give to kindred life and light.

It teaches us to loyal be
For yours was such a noble deed,
When you risked all to save your race,
And be to them a friend in need.

We bring these flowers with our love,
For flowers have a message too,
And with a pledge of loyalty
We promise to be true to you.

Associate Matron enters labyrinth and collects flowers from officers, and steps back far enough to be outside of semicircle. The four officers turn and passing East of dais form part of aisle for Esther. As soon as these officers are in position, the four remaining Star points take position, Adah and Ruth south of Altar, and Martha and Electa north of Altar. They also carry flowers. As soon as they are in position facing Esther, one of group speaks:

We do not pray for something great and grand,
Nor do we covet wealth, or gold, or land,
But let us always be so kind and true,
And like our Esther, dare the right to do.

Your light shines with that purity so white
Because you risked your life to do the right,
And so we humbly bring our gift to you,
Uniting white with green and yellow, red and blue.

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Associate Matron approaches Altar, collects flowers from Star points and presents them to guests as follows:

Through the gift of these flowers, we express to you our appreciation for the lessons of devotion and self sacrifice which serve as an example to us to be loyal in all circumstances which call for right and duty.

After presenting flowers, Associate Matron returns to her station. The Star points pass east of Altar to complete aisle for Esthers. As soon as aisle is formed, Worthy Matron requests Marshal to escort Esthers to the East. The Conductress and Associate Conductress, with lighted candles meet guests at Altar and lead the way through the aisle, stepping aside at foot of dais to allow guests to pass. Before guests are seated in the East, soloist sings:

Tune: "Abide With Me."

Our Esther dear, with love we turn to thee,
For thou art fair and beautiful to see,
When danger to thy captive race was seen,
You alone stood the test, our noble Queen.

Our Esther dear, you chose the right to do,
And to your friends you were so kind and true;
You risked your life and through it love was seen,
For this we honor you, our noble Queen.

As soon as guests are seated, Conductress and Associate Conductress turn south and north respectively, and return to their stations, other officers following.

Song may be sung just before guests are escorted to the East if desired.

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