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THE MESSAGE OF THE LILIES.

O. E. S. GRAND  
CHAPTER LIBRARY

(Easter Ceremonial)  
by  
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This may be given under the Order of Business "The Good of The Order" or after the closing of the chapter on a regular meeting night.

If given under the "Good of the Order", the Worthy Matron will arise and say:

WORTHY MATRON'S SPEECH.

Sisters and brothers. The Order of the Eastern Star is founded upon the same principles as those of true Christianity.

The bible is the source from which the lessons taught by our Order have been drawn. Our heroines are lovely characters taken from the "Book of Life".

Since the principles of Christianity are also our principles, it is fitting and right that this Order should devote at least a small portion of time to the observance of one of the main and most vital events recorded in the bible - that event being the resurrection of the Master Christian.

I therefore invite you to unite with me in raising our thoughts to the contemplation of the spiritual lessons taught by the resurrection.

The officers will retire in form to re-enter the chapter room for this purpose.

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She sounds the gavel and the officers retire. When they re-enter, each shall carry an Easter lily. (Real or artificial.)

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If given after the close of the chapter, the W.M. will make an announcement, at the proper time, that a service appropriate to Easter is to be given after the meeting and that all are invited to remain. She will change the wording in the fourth paragraph (given above) to I therefore invite you to remain after the closing, to unite with me in raising our thoughts, etc.

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Soft music while the W.M. and the W.P., followed by the A.M. and the A.P. enter the room and go to their stations. When in their places, all are seated simultaneously.

The WORTHY MATRON arises and says:

The Cross is the emblem of Christianity;  
Our emblem is the Star of five colored rays!

The lesson of the cross is clear!  
We each may have a cross to bear,  
But if we cling to God, in need,  
We find He bears our cross, indeed!  
And so we thank Him for His son  
Who came the way to show each one. (She sits.)

The Worthy Patron then arises and speaks as follows:

The cross which Jesus bore to Calvary was ugly  
and bare, And it ~~was~~ heavy!  
Our cross is light because the Christ has made  
it so. It can also be called beautiful.  
He has commanded us to take up our cross and to  
follow after Him. It shall be light because He  
has gone before us, and has cleared the way.

The W.P. shall then descend the dais and go to the South aisle, turn west and go down the aisle to the door in the west where the Sentinel will give him a cross which he is to carry back to the east and place on an easel or pedestal which has been put in the southeast to receive it. You can decide where the best place for it is in your hall. This cross will be so constructed as to have openings or places in its outline into which the Easter lilies can be inserted to make a cross of lilies.

Soft music, or one verse of an appropriate hymn, while the W.P. is going for the cross, returning with and placing it, and resuming his station.

The Worthy Patron knocks on door in the west. The Sentinel opens the door and asks:

Sentinel: Who knocks at the door in the west?

Worthy Patron answers: I, the Worthy Patron. I have come to bear the cross, emblem of christianity, into our chapter so that the five colored Rays from our Star may shed their light upon it. Jesus bore His cross, and I shall bear this in humble recognition of and in obedience to his command.

Sentinel answers: Take it, Brother Patron, and may its burden seem light to you and to all who are assembled in this room tonight. May the cross we each have to bear be a steady influence upon us, but let us not forget that with the command to take up the cross, He gave us another, "What I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

The Sentinel gives him the cross, and he returns to the east. When he is seated the Associate Matron will arise and say:

~~The Associate Matron's Speech:~~

I shall speak of the first Easter morning.  
Never was there a more glorious morn!  
A golden, radiant light shone round about  
bathing everything in its beauty and chasing  
away the dark clouds of sorrow and tragedy  
which had hovered heavily over the landscape  
for three long days.

The air was vibrant with the sweet, joyous  
songs of birds; and fresh with sparkling  
~~dew~~, stately, cool, white lilies lifted  
their beautiful pure chalices heavenward.

She raises her lily; lowers it, and is seated.

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The Associate Patron arises and continues:

On that morning, very early, came the Marys - Mary Magdalene  
and the other Mary, to the sepulcher.

And when they looked, they saw the stone was rolled away;  
for it was very great.

And entering into the sepulcher they saw a young man sitting;  
his countenance was like lightning and his raiment was white as snow;

And the angel said unto the women, "Fear not ye; for I know  
that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

He is not here; for He is risen as He said; come, see the place  
where he lay."

And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and  
great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

(Asso. Patron sits.)



A Duet, or a Soloist, then sings the following:  
(Tune--Juanita.)

Early one morning, just before the night was spent,  
Bearing sweet spices - the two Marys went!  
But their Lord had arisen; the great stone was rolled away.  
And they heard an angel, to them gently say:

Jesus, your Lord, is risen,  
Come, and see the place he lay.  
Risen - just as he told you,  
On the third great day.

Blest Easter morning, bringing Light and Life to all,  
May you ne'er fail us, when on you we call.  
Like our Easter lilies - each so spotless, white, and pure,  
May Thy Light e'er lead us, safe through death's dark door.

Jesus, our Lord, has risen.  
He arose, so strong, so wise;  
Thus Hope to us is given -  
That we too shall rise.

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The CONDUCTRESSES now enter. The Conductress speaks as they advance slowly. They stop when they reach the line which runs behind Esther's chair and stand on this line, facing the East, until each has spoken. Then the Associate Conductress continues up the North Aisle to line running in front of Chaplain's chair, turns south, and goes to center of dais, turns to face the W.M. and goes directly forward to secure the lilies from W.M. and W.P., goes to the cross to insert them and returns to her station. The Conductress turns south on the line, goes to center front of the dais in the west and turns west to go to get the lilies from the A.M. and A.P. Returns to the line, goes to south aisle, east up aisle to the cross to insert the lilies, and returns to her station. All officers will observe straight lines and square corners in their line of march.

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The CONDUCTRESS speaks:

As the two Marys came to the sepulcher, bearing sweet spices,  
so we too come, bearing white lilies, emblematic of pure thoughts  
and of Light.

With grateful hearts we come to express our joy and love.

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The ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS adds:

We bring white lilies, pure and sweet,  
To place upon His cross;  
Because He made us free indeed,  
From death, and sin, and loss.

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They insert the lilies in the places as given in the sketch at the end of the ceremonial, and then go to their stations, where they are seated without the gavel.

Soft music. The Marshal, followed by the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Chaplain, enters.

The MARSHAL speaks as they advance into the room:

We enter with joy, bearing white lilies,  
emblems of Light, which tell us that Life overcame  
death, and Light dispels darkness.

He who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Light",  
has shown us that Life is eternal and that it cannot be  
destroyed by death; nor be confined within the narrow  
limits of a tomb.

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They go to form a straight line across the west, on the line running two steps west of Esther's chair. The Chaplain leaves this line going on a diagonal line between Esther's and Martha's chairs to the altar where she offers the prayer which is given below. The Secretary stands behind Esther's chair; The Marshal stands two steps south of the Secretary, and the Treasurer two steps north of the Secretary during the prayer. When prayer is ended, the Chaplain leaves the altar in the regular manner and returns to the line on which the other three are standing. She turns north and leads the Treasurer up north aisle to the east; across east to place lilies on the cross. The Marshal and Secretary turn and go south to aisle; east up aisle to the cross to place their lilies, after which all four go to their stations.

#### CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be  
Thy name.

We thank Thee for Thy great gift to us.  
That gift was Thy beloved son whom Thou didst  
send to show us the Way to eternal life.

We thank Thee because He was endowed  
with the love for humanity and the courage necessary  
to accomplishment of His great purpose, to submit to  
the crucifixion and prove to us what Thou art, and what  
~~Thou canst do for Thy children.~~

We thank Thee for all Thy goodness to us,  
And we ask Thee to lead us in the Way which He  
has marked out. We ask this in Jesus' name and  
for his sake. Amen.

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#### Secretary's Speech (spoken before the cross.)

We thank Thee for the lilies,  
And for all other flow'rs;  
For joyful songs of birdies  
To fill our morning hours.

These lilies speak of Light-  
Of vict'ry over death,  
We'll thank Thee for them, Lord,  
As long as we have breath!

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#### The TREASURER'S Speech.

We praise thee, risen Lord,  
For thy great victory;  
We know that thou hadst said,  
"The Truth shall make you free".

We know that Thou art great,  
Because you're wholly good;  
Send us more of thy Light,  
'Til Truth is understood!

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Solo, or duet, sings "Hail, to the Prince of Light". Words and music on  
last sheets of this ceremonial.

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## The FIVE STAR POINT OFFICERS ENTER.

They are led by Adah across the west to the south aisle; up aisle to the cross. Each says her speech, inserts her lily in the cross and then goes to stand on the line which runs in front of Electa's and Adah's chairs. Adah, being the first speaker, will go far enough towards Electa's chair to leave room for Ruth, Esther, and Martha, between her and Electa, who will come to the cross last. When Electa has finished speaking, the line led by Adah will encircle the chairs. Electa will stop at her station when she comes to it; Martha leaves the line when she arrives at her chair, etc.- Esther, Ruth, and Adah each stopping at her station when the line comes even with her chair. They remain standing until Adah is at her station, then all are seated simultaneously, without blow of gavel.

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ADAH'S Speech.

As a representative of an obedient Daughter, I bring a tribute of love to an obedient Son. Neither was afraid to die.

The Son tasted death for us all, so that he might free those who fear of death were all their lifetime in bondage.

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RUTH speaks:

Instead of Golden Grain, I bring this lovely lily-pure, spotless, and white as the character of our risen Lord, ~~Christ Jesus, who has promised never to leave us~~ but to be with us always.

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ESTHER speaks:

Consider the lilies, how they grow! They toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that neither Solomon, in all his glory, nor Esther, in her royal apparel, was arrayed like one of these!

If our heavenly Father so clothes the lilies, will He not much more clothe us, Oh, we of little faith?

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MARTHA speaks:

"Have faith in God", these lilies say,  
For He will meet your need each day!  
~~Light, truth, and love will make us free~~  
From all fear of immortality!

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ELECTA speaks:

It was Love who created the lilies and gave them to us to enjoy, and now of His own we are giving him.

We thank Him for the lilies, and for all the things which He has given us, richly, to enjoy.

We thank Him most sincerely for his greatest gift to us - the gift of His only Son, who has shown us that we need not despair of the ultimate triumph of Truth.

When the Star Point Officers are seated, the WARDER arises and says:

One flower is lacking to form a perfect cross. So may I add it;  
and, if one thing needful to make a perfect life be lacking, so may  
our heavenly Father add it to our lives.

As I add this pure lily to the cross, emblem of Christianity, so  
may Love add whatever is needful in our emblem - the Star of  
five colored rays - to make our lives more perfect, and to  
cause to despair not of the ultimate triumph of Truth.

Words for the song "Hail, to the Prince of Light".

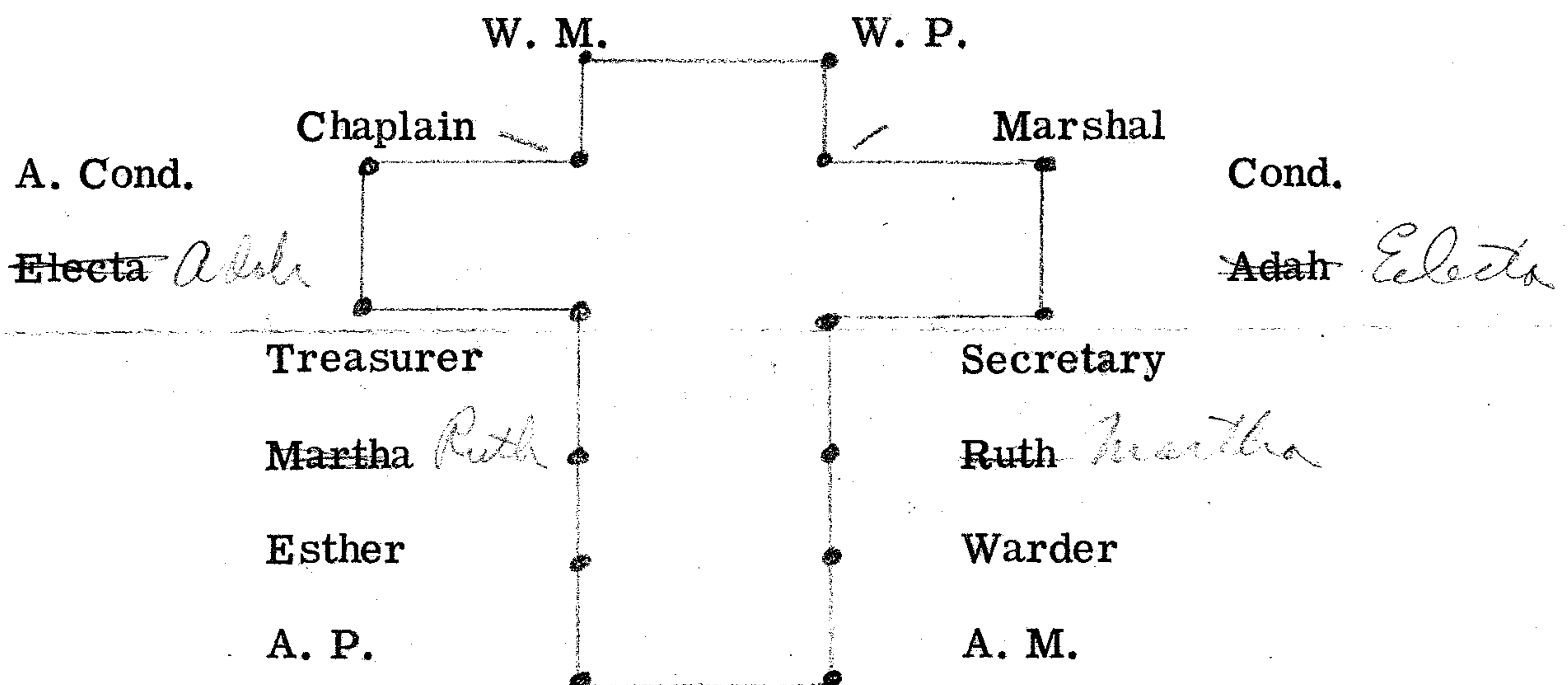
1. Hail, to the Prince of e-ter-nal light.  
Je-sus, Sa-viour, Thou didst rise in-deed.  
Safe-ly through death's dark-est night you came,  
Bring-ing us - the liv-ing proof that we - can do - the same;  
We all a-dore Thee, gra-cious Lord,  
And we are trust-ing in Thy word:  
Hail, Prince of Light,  
Victor over night,  
Hail, be-lov-ed Son!  
He is ris-en,  
Christ has risen,  
Risen, in-deed.

( Christ is risen, He a-rose in-deed. -- Alto. )

2. Hail, to the Prince of e-ter-nal Peace  
~~Thou hast proved, for - us all, that death's claims must cease;~~  
The tomb was rent and you stepped forth free,  
Thus prov-ing the pow'r of Truth for all hu-man-i-ty:  
This is the truth you came to prove:  
Man is sus-tained by God's great love;

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The Cross should be made with openings into which the lilies can be  
inserted in the following places.



Love con- quers all!  
Death has no might,  
In Truth and - the Light!  
We a- dore you,  
All a- dore you,  
O, Love di- vine.

(So di- vine, thou art mine, love di- vine. -Alto)

The following simple retiring march may be used.

