WREATH OF LOVE
An Easter Ceremony--
by
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This ceremony should be handled in a simple manner, to be effective. The Worthy Matron calls up the Chapter for Prayer and after the song, "Hail the King", she should sound the gavel to dismiss the Chapter.

Provide each Star Point with a spray of flowers, the color appropriate to her office. Have each spray long enough so that when they are laid end to end they will make a generous circle around the Bible on the Altar. Use a piece of oil cloth, the color and exact size of the Altar top to protect the cloth from stains from the flowers.

The Star Points give their parts in the order given; they stand beside their chairs with the spray held before them in both hands. After the first part of their speech, they step to the Altar direct from their place, give the remainder of their speech, and lay the spray reverently in place. Esther's spray will be directly in front of the open Bible, and the rest laid carefully around it so that the red and blue sprays will just meet at the top of the Bible.

As the day of the occasion is one of rejoicing, much music is fitting. The well known hymn, "Hail the King," would be good before the prayer. After Esther's speech, "The Old Rugged Cross" is suggested; after Ruth finishes, "Christ the Lord is Risen." "Holy City" is suggested for the end. Use a chorus for all except "Holy City" which should be sung by a soloist. The soloist's part may be omitted if desired; in this case, have the Chaplain go back to her place after the prayer.

If the soloist is used, she should sit in the southeast. When the Chaplain goes West and then to the labyrinth, the soloist does likewise, standing through the ceremony between the chairs of Esther and Ruth.

WORTHY MATRON:
Let us unite in prayer.

Gavel

CHAPLAIN (from the Altar):

Dear God, we ask Thy blessing of Peace and love, which so appropriately combine at this season of the year with the Resurrection of Life and all growing things. Awaken us to the Glory of living so that we may appreciate the Joy and Gladness meant for those who worship Thee with Praise and Thanksgiving. Uplift us with Thy abundant love; open our eyes to the Glories round about us so that we may see in them a resemblance to the Glories above.

These Joys and Blessings we ask so that we may consecrate them to Thy Name.

Amen.

(Chaplain steps back to a line between the chairs of Martha and Esther, opposite the soloist.)

ESTHER:

"Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion; for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?" (Ecc. 3:22)

(Goes to the Altar and continues):
We rejoice and are glad and give praise and glory to God at this Easter time for it is the season of new life and awakening. As we rejoice, I place on our Altar, this branch to start a Wreath of Love.

SONG: "The Old Rugged Cross"
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MARTHA:

"I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness; and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High." (Ps. 7:17)

(Goes to the Altar and continues):

Singing the praise of righteousness, I place this branch in the Wreath of Love, for His Names Sake.

RUTH:

"I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." (St. John 16:22)

(Goes to the Altar and continues):

Joyously we praise Him and give thanks for awakening of all life. I add this branch of joy to the Wreath of Love.

SONG: "Christ the Lord is Risen"

ELECTA:

"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." (1John 3:11)

(Goes to the Altar and continues):

Acclaiming His Grace and Glory, I place this branch in the Wreath of Love.

ADAH:

"I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoiceth." (Ps. 16:8,9)

(Goes to the Altar and continues):

With gladness of heart, I add this branch to the Wreath of Love, because of His promise to be always with us.

WORTHY MATRON (or Soloist):

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14)

(Goes to the Altar. Omit this part if the Worthy Matron gives the above, and the Chorus sings "Holy City.")

Because the Gates of Heaven are opened to the Blessed, I finish the Wreath of Love with my song, giving a glimpse of Eternal Life in that Holy City -- the City not made with hands.

SONG: "Holy City"

(Soloist then steps back in line and after a slight pause, the Worthy Matron sounds the gavel for dismissal.)