THE GARDEN OF HOPE.

O. E. S. GRAND
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AN EASTER CEREMONIAL.

To be given after the close of Chapter. The officers will retire in regular form. The Bible is removed from the altar, lilies are placed at the stations of the Star Points and at Chaplain's station, an olive branch at station of the Marshal, palm branches at stations of Secretary and Treasurer, and tall white tapers in candlesticks are set on pedestals at stations of Conduc
tress and Associate Conductress. A little white picket fence is placed in front of Worthy Matron's pedestal. This fence should be constructed of light material and be approximately 6 feet long and 2 feet high with 7 pickets. Green vines may be twined about the fence and an Easter Lily or two placed near the center picket. Staples or loops on each picket will enable other branches and lilies to be put into position. (See Diagram No. 1.)

Worthy Patron and Associate Patron assume stations. Other officers march in two lines. (See Diagram No. 2. for final positions and order of march.)

When officers reach stations, the WORTHY PATRON raps with gavel, and speaks as follows:

Sisters and Brothers, to-night, in fancy, we ask you to go with us into the garden of eternal hope commemorating that first Easter morning when the King of Light revealed to the world that the grave cannot hold the immortal spirit of man. As the flowers of an other Easter bloom in our earthly gardens, so the flowers of faith and confidence unfold in the garden of hope and help us to look forward to a new and better world ahead.

SONG. Duet, solo or chorus. Sung to the tune of "Whispering Hope". (The song: "Whispering Hope" may be found in "Favorite Hymns" by the Standard Publishing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio or may be secured in manuscript form from H. C. Weaner & Co., Buffalo, N. Y.)

Verse. Deep in the garden eternal,
Teaching a lesson anew
Christ with a gentle persuasion
Lightens your burdens for you.

Hear - how our Savior redeemed is -
Look for His Love and His Care.
Let's hear His powers exalted!
Let us praise Him everywhere!

Chorus. Sisters, dear,-
Let us hear thy sweet voices
Teaching us here
Of His words and His might.

MARSHAL stands at her station and says:

In the Garden of Gethsemene before Judas betrayed Him for a handful of silver coins, Jesus, in his suffering, cried aloud. "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death". (Walks to center of fence and places olive branch at 1.) "I place here a branch of the olive, a symbol of the sorrow of our Lord, as He came to bring new hope even in his deepest affliction. (Returns to station.) (Music as she goes.)

SECRETARY and TREASURER walk to either end of fence. Stand in position, holding palm branches until Treasure has spoken, then place palm branches (together) at 2 and 3, return to stations and are seated. (Soft Music.)

SECRETARY speaks: A great multitude of joyful people took the branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and all events were pointing to his death.

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TREASURER speaks now:- We place here the palm branches as a symbol of Jesus's triumph - his triumphal entry into the city and his final triumph over death.

Star Points and Chaplain stand, each carrying a lily, and advance in front of fence and face west. (See Diagram No. 3) (Soft music for all movements.)

ADAH speaks as follows:

May this lily be a symbol for all that lifts the heart and lights the way; and as life is renewed in all nature, may the hearts of men be filled with the truths as taught by Jesus so that new hope and courage may be gained therefrom.

ELECTA says:

May this lily remind us of the love our Heavenly Father bears us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

The scriptures also assure us, "Neither death nor life - shall be able to separate us from the love of God.

RUTH speaks:

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not

neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Let us strive to realize the care and protection that is provided for us and the world by God.

MARTHA says:

May this lily keep evergreen in our memory the promise which Jesus gave to the people: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world".

ESTHER speaks:

Each Easter season has brought its miracles of life, and yet the world never knew a resurrection until Jesus in his humble station taught men how to live and die and live again, for he said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly", and we learn from our bible that "Death had no more dominion over him".

CHAPLAIN then speaks:

To day we are weary with the sorrow of a great war, but I bring this lily for the peace - that will (has) come and I pray that it may be the most just peace the world has ever known.

O that a future Easter
Finds the lily, pure and white,
Lighting all the darkened places
And bringing cares aright.

Star Points and Chaplain turn, place lilies near pickets 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Return to stations in reverse order and are seated. While above officers are returning to stations, Conductress and Associate Conductress light tapers and stand at stations, holding them. When returning officers are seated, Conductress and Associate Conductress approach the altar, from south and north, speak in turn, place lighted candles on altar and proceed East, stopping on each side of the Worthy Matron's station. (Diagram No.4.)
ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS at her station speaks:

The world was lost in darkness
'Till Jesus came Nazareth's way,
And He brought a light that's been shining
Through all the ages unto this day.

The CONDUCTRESS then says the following:

Where His light leads on we must follow
Tho' we may be wishing to rest
For the path that is steep climbs upward
To all that is sacred and blest.

WORTHY MATRON stands and speaks:

I'm glad to know His teachings,
His love, and His care, and His might.
That I should know my Father's will
He came to shed His light.

He promised me Life abundant;
And through His preachings, dear,
He showed me Life Eternal -
Proved death no thing to fear.

Now when on earth my days are done
And near is drawing night -
For His outstretched hand, I'll reach
And feel His radiance bright.

SING: To tune of "Whispering Hope" (Same as before.)

Verse.  When, at the end of Life's journey,
       We reach that region afar,
       We shall all see in the distance
       The light of the Eastern Star.

       And - now we come to the garden
       Where the lilies whisper low,
       Bringing a message of hope,
       Take it wherever you go.

Chorus.  Whispering hope,
       O, how welcome thy voice,
       Making me, now,
       In Christ's love to rejoice.

When Worthy Matron has spoken Conductress and Associate Conductress turn north and south, then west, followed by other officers until they meet in front of Associate Matron's station. Cross is formed. Verse above is sung. At conclusion of song, Associate Conductress, Worthy Matron, Chaplain turn west, -- Treasurer, Electa, and Martha turn north. -- Conductress, Marshal, and Secretary turn south. Officers march out in two lines, Conductress and Treasurer leading. (See diagrams Nos. 5 and 6.)

When Esther leaves her station, her chair is removed from the floor.

See next page for diagrams of formations and marches.

--------------- THE END --------------
NOTE:—It would be quite impressive, if after the cross is formed and the song finished, and just before the officers start to march out if the Worthy Patron would call the order to stand. When they are out of the door, dismiss with one rap.