PREPARATION-
Present program after the Chapter has closed. Remove Bible from Altar. Those taking part may retire and dress in a costume of Bible days if desired. They enter and are seated in their stations before the ceremony begins. There are two pieces of blue ribbon with pins attached at Adah's station, two yellow flowers at Ruth's, (these may be artificial if necessary) two lighted white candles at Esther's chair, two sprays of green for Martha and two crosses at Electa's place. The Chaplain has some white cardboard or papier mache bells. One singer or a choir is required. In the west before the Preperation room door there is an arch way with gate made to represent the Gates of the Temple. A gate keeper dressed in a robe stands by the gate. If you have a choir and find it possible for them to wear robes, it will add to the pageantry of your ceremony. They may march in just before the service opens. Two travelers dressed in robes are outside the Chapter room door.

MUSIC-
"There is a Green Hill Far Away", "Evening Song", sometimes called "Father Forgive" or "If I Have Wounded Any Soul", "Low in the Grave He Lay" and "Open the Gates of the Temple". These songs are either in hymnals or are well known sheet music.

CHARACTERS-
Two Travelers, Five Star Points, Chaplain, Conductress and Associate Conductress, Gate Keeper, Marshal and Secretary, Worthy Patron and singer or choir. Less characters may be used if necessary as the Chaplain part may be omitted and less may leave stations to go through the gate.

CEREMONY

Music--"There is a Green Hill Far Away". (This is a hymn).
At the close of the song the two travelers enter and walk a few steps into the room, and stop.
First sister speaks:
We seem to have lost our way. Surely there should be sign posts to point the way to the beautiful Temple of Easter.
Second sister:
I do believe I see one in the distance (points toward Adah's station). It is blue. Let us hasten on.

The two sisters walk together to Adah's station then stop before it. Adah rises.
First sister speaks:
My friend, we seek the Easter Temple, can you help us find our way?
Adah:
The beautiful blue of the heaven is the sign post of approaching Easter. The days grow longer, the sky becomes brighter after a long cold winter and brings new joy to the hearts of men. This symbol of blue (pins blue ribbon on each) gives renewed courage and shows us that long dark days of sacrifice come to an end and that brighter skies will bring to us a future joy and peace.

Second sister:
Thank you, my friend, you have indeed a sign post that will guide us to the Easter Temple.
Adah is seated as the two sisters circle the Altar approaches Ruth.
As they walk the first sister speaks:
I see another sign post (pointing toward Ruth) let us seek its message.

Second sister, addressing Ruth:
My friend, we are traveling toward the Easter Temple. The time draws near to that Holy Day. Can you help us find our way?

Ruth, presenting flowers, speaks:
A lovely yellow flower is my symbol of Easter — the bright flower which has lain hidden under the earth in preparation for the time when it would blossom forth in all its glory bringing gladness to us. It reminds us that lowly service given freely and with constancy points the way to higher joys and has its own rewards.

First sisters:
We thank you for this. Surely you have a true sign post to the Easter Temple.

The Travelers circle the Altar again and approach Esther.
Second sister speaks:
My friend, we saw your light in the distance and we knew it to be a sign post so we hastened here.

Esther speaks:
These rays are more than sign posts. The lenten season is a season when we purify our souls and make ourselves ready for the glad and the Easter time. The white rays of purity must shine us if we would know the true meaning of the happy days to come. May they be a true guide to you, lighting the way to the Easter Temple. Only a pure and upright life is above the tongue of reproach.

First sister:
My friend, you have truly taught us a lesson and have helped us to find the way.
(The Travelers take the candles away with them)

As they approach the circling of the Altar again the second sister speaks:
Now blind we have been. Twice have we passed the Altar of Sacrifice and Purity and we have been so eager to reach the Temple that we give no thought to ourselves and our soul’s preparation.

First sister speaks:
This time let us stop at the Holy Altar and ask for heavenly guidance and for the forgiveness of our trespasses, so that we may enter the Easter season with pure hearts.

The two Travelers stop before the Altar, each places her lighted taper upon it and together they kneel. The lights in the Chapter room are slowly lowered and the singer sings the "Evening Prayer" (sometimes called "Oh Lord Forgive" or "If I Have Wounded Any Soul"). At the close of the song the lights are brightened and the two Travelers rise.

First Traveler speaks:
Let us leave these lights to guide others to this shrine that they too may pause to seek forgiveness.

Second Traveler:
Then let us be on our way, another sign post meets my eyes.

They approach Martha.
First speaker:  
We saw your sign post and seek your guidance to the Easter Temple.

Martha speaks:  
With gladness we see the new green carpet covering the earth. This to us is a sign post of Easter, showing us that the earth has awakened to new life and beauty. Green, the symbol of eternal life and our hope of immortality reminds us that faith brings courage and joy to the saddened heart. (Gives each a spray of green)

Second speaker:  
We thank you for your guidance.

The two circle the Altar and the first speaker says as they walk along:  
Surely now we are close to the Temple. Easter cannot be far away. We have traveled so far and passed so many sign posts. But there — I see another. Shall we approach?

Second sister to Electa:  
My friend, we have traveled far in search of the Easter Temple. Is the way still long?

Electa:  
The sign here, dear Travelers, is the last one you will find before you come to the Temple but none will find it without this sign post. It is the cross — take it, (gives each a small cross) and with ardor press it to your bosom — precious emblem of your Savior's death. For without this cross, a symbol of suffering and agony, the joy of the Risen Lord may not be known. Listen to the message of the music.

The song, "Low in the Grave He Lay" is sung. First the three verses and then the chorus. While the verses are sung the lights are again lowered. The Conductress and Associate Conductress leave their stations and kneel before the Altar. When the chorus is sung the lights are again brightened. The Conductress and Associate Conductress remain kneeling until the Temple "bells" are rung, when they rise and follow the Travelers to the Gates. At the close of the song the Travelers walk past the Chaplain. She steps out and stops them.

Chaplain speaks:  
And whither go ye with your symbols of the Easter?

First sister: We are going to the Temple where we will celebrate the Easter tide. Will you accompany us?  
Chaplain: Yes, I too, would go and worship the risen Lord. I shall take my Easter bells that their cheerful tones may tell the world of this most joyful season of the year. Come let us go.

(She takes the bells from her station and walks ahead of the Travelers. As they leave to go West bells are heard in the anteroom. At the first tones of the bell, the Conductress and Associate Conductress leave the Altar and follow the Travelers to the gate. Then the five Star Points rise, turn West and go to the gate, followed by Marshal and Secretary. As all approach the gate the singer sings, "Open the Gates of the Temple". The gate keeper opens the gate as the song is sung and they walk through it and leave the Chapter room. At the close of the song the Worthy Matron says:  
Such are the joys of Eastertide. New life, new hope and unflinching faith in the risen Lord. So may it ever be.

Tape the gavel and the ceremony is over.