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PROGRAM

Worthy Matron: Sisters and brothers, our thoughts at this season of the year are turned to Easter, the time of new beginnings, renewed and strengthened faith in the hope of immortal life. Of the number of days on this earth we know not. The broken column is our emblem of the uncertainty of human life. Today we are here, tomorrow we have departed. But this departure is only to the eternal home.

As we celebrate this Easter service it seems befitting that we select Sister Martha, who teaches the lesson of faith in the life everlasting, to take charge of this ceremony of hope and faith. Sister Martha, we invite you to take a station in the East and assist us in learning more about the beautiful truths of the Resurrection.

Martha takes a position in the East beside the Worthy Matron.

Six members enter Chapter room dressed in white carrying crosses about six inches. As they enter a quartet sings very softly the three verses of the hymn "Christ Arose." omitting the chorus each time. These six marchers form a cross in the East before the Worthy Matron's station, four making the stem and two forming the arms of the cross. They kneel with heads bowed. When song is ended Martha reads Mark 16:1-8. After the reading quartet sings the chorus of "Christ Arose." At the first chord of the music those forming the cross arise and hold up the crosses they are carrying in their right hands. When the song is finished they turn, form one line and wind the Star Point chairs as soft music is played, coming to the East again forming one straight line. (Martha rises as they stand before her and addresses them.)

My sisters, you come before me bearing crosses and seemingly laden with burdens that rest heavily on mind and heart. Can I do ought to alleviate the weight of your crosses?

First Sister: My cross seems very heavy indeed,
I am weary in body and mind,
Can you help me in my stringent need,
Courage and comfort to find?

Martha: My sister, our Master has said, "Come unto me all ye that labor
and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."
Second sister: I carry the cross of uncertainty and doubt,
And lack the faith that I need,
To keep trusting day by day
What lessons should I heed?

Martha: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have light."
Third sister: The world is full of suffering and strife,
And we all are struggling for necessities of life,
Have we assurance that needs will be supplied,
If with the righteous cause we are allied?

Martha: These are the words of Jesus, "Consider the lillies, how they grow,
they toil not neither do they spin and yet I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If God then so clothe the grass of the fields, how much more will He clothe you, oh ye of little faith? And seek not what ye shall eat nor what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind, but seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and all these things shall be added unto you."
Fourth Sister: I carry the cross of sorrow,
For the loved ones gone before,
I seek for words of hope and cheer
That I may weep no more.

Martha: These are the words of the Master, "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." And again, "I go to prepare a place for you that where I am there ye may be also."

Fifth Sister: It's hard to face life's task each day,
At times they overwhelm me, so,
And I would seek for words of courage
To help me as I onward go.

Martha: The good book says, "He giveth power to the faint, and to them that hath no might He increaseth strength. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint."

Sixth Sister: I weary oft of doing good,
Discouragement is in my heart,
What blessed thought shall fill my mind
As each new day I start?

Martha: Again we quote from the Blessed Book, "Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Sister and brothers, these beautiful promises spoken from the Bible have been made possible by the Resurrection. Let us take courage anew, increase our faith and keep in our hearts the blessed hope of the life everlasting.

Worthy Patron, have you an Easter wish for us?

Worthy Patron: May the glad dawn of Easter morn
Bring joy to thee,
May the calm eve of Easter leave
A peace divine with thee.
May Easter night on thy heart write
O Christ I live for Thee.

Worthy Matron(Calls up Chapter): Let us unite in prayer.

Chaplain at Altar: O risen Lord, we feel Thy strong protection,
We see Thee stand among the graves today,
I am the way, the life, the resurrection
We hear Thee say.
And all the burdens we have carried sadly,
Grow light as blossoms on an April day,
Our cross becomes a staff, we journey gladly,
This Easter Day.

Amen.

Chaplain resumes station.

Quartet sings "Joy to the World" as Martha resumes her station and sisters leave the Chapter room.