Form a CROSS around Esther's chair.

Chaplain
Secretary
Electa  Martha  Esther  Ruth  Adah
Conductress
Assoc. Cond.

OFFICER OF CHOICE

WM: Tonight in observation of Easter, I have asked several of our Sisters to participate in the program.
"Easter is so many things,
All lovely to behold,
To cherish in fond memory,
To guard, and to enfold."

"Sister Chaplain will begin with a poem entitled "Easter Prayer" by Helen Welshimer."

LOWER THE LIGHTS

SISTER CHAPLAIN: leaves station and approaches the Altar between Martha and Esther's stations.

"Help us to find a cross somewhere,
Since it is Easter Day,
Where we may nail the foolish fears
That we should throw away.
Teach us, dear God, that bright green grass
Will always come with spring,
There will be sunlight on old fields--
Keep us remembering!

May we forget the petty trials,
Dreams gone, brief hurt, deep loss;
And turn where lilies climb the air
To hide a bleeding cross.
For hope is born where lilacs bloom
Rain-sweet in early spring,
And faith that found an empty tomb
Can conquer anything!

REMAIN AT ALTAR FOLLOWING YOUR READING.
SECRETARY: leaves station and approaches Altar between Ruth and Esther's stations and stands behind the CHAPLAIN.

READING:
"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yowseflies: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."  
LUKE 22:14-30

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING YOUR READING.

ESTHER: Rises and reads

READING: Maundy Thursday by Alice Kennelly Roberts
"The last meal which He ate with them,
The night before He died,
Was one which they would oft recall
When He was crucified.

He talked with them and washed their feet;
He gave them bread and wine,
That in remembrance they might do
The act which was divine.

"No servant greater than his Lord;"
"No love so great as this"
- The words of life preceding death
Betrayed by friendship's kiss.

So silver from Iscariot's hand
Has tinkled down the years;
Man's greed has hanged his guilty self
And drowned his deeds in tears."

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING YOUR READING

CONDUCTRESS: leaves station and takes position back of Esther's chair.

READING:
Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

JOHN 19:16-19

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING YOUR READING
ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS: leaves station and takes position back of Conductor.

READING: Good Friday by M. Mae Fisher
"May Savior climbed Golgotha hill,
Bearing His heavy load.
As painfully He upward toiled
Along that uphill road,
Great drops of sweet and drops of blood
Dripped for a cause sublime.
The cross He bore, the thorns He wore
Were His; the sins were mine!

They nailed Him to the cross of pain,
And there He died to win
The evil, stubborn hearts of men
And save them from their sin.
He laid His life, a bridge across,
Whereon we all may pass
Unto the Father's loving arms
To be redeemed at last."

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING READING

MARTHA: leaves her chair and takes position on the NORTH side of Esther.

READING:
And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, said unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

JOHN 20:14-18

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING READING

RUTH: leaves her chair and takes position on the SOUTH side of Esther.

READING: Easter Morning by Mary Frances Watkins
"A cross against a pale gray sky,
His grieving people huddled by,
The Master's body quiet, torn,
Wearing still the crown of thorns,
Loving hands took Him down,
Wrapping Him in linens white,
Placed Him in the waiting tomb
And kept their vigil through the night.
Three days passed while they did mourn.
Then He arose! New hope was born
From out the dark and flowered tomb,
Assuaging mankind's anguished doom.
The sun rose high that misty morn
On the first of Easter, newly born.

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING YOUR READING
ELECTA: leaves her chair and takes position by Martha thus completing the arm of the Cross on the NORTH

READING: Easter by Olga McCoy
What is the meaning of Easter,
Of the Cross, the Crown, and the Tomb,
When we turn from winter's grayness
To a spring of refreshing bloom?

What is the meaning of joy,
In the hearts of Christian people,
As they left their voice in praise
And bells ring out from every steeple?

The meaning is: Love in the Cross,
Faith in the Crown, to bring
The hope of an empty Tomb,
And the thanks to a risen King.

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING YOUR READING

ADAH: leaves her chair and takes position by Ruth thus completing the arm of the Cross on the SOUTH

READING: The Legend of the Dogwood
At the time of the Crucifixion the Dogwood attained the size of the oak and other forest trees. So strong and firm was the wood it was chosen as the timber for the Cross.

To be thus used for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree and Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed this and in His gentle pity for all sorrow, said to it: "Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, I make this promise: never again shall the Dogwood Tree grow large enough to be used for a Cross. Henceforth it shall be slander and shall be bent and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a Cross - two long and two short petals.

And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, And in the center of the flower, brown with rust and stained with blood, will be a crown of thorns - so that all who see it will remember it was upon a Dogwood Tree that I was crucified, and this tree shall not be mutilated nor destroyed but cherished and protected as a reminder of My agony and death upon the Cross."

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING YOUR READING

Officer of Chancel: leaves her station and takes her position back of the Assoc. Cond.

READING: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS (selected verses)

REMAIN IN POSITION FOLLOWING YOUR READING

WM: RAPS UP CHAPTER

READING: EASTER BLESSINGS by Pearl McKinney
"May you rejoice in the
Gladness of this
Easter season,
And may the message of
New life and hope
Remain with you always!"
WM: Sister please return to your respective stations.

The SISTERS leave one a time in this order: Officer of choice, Assoc. Cond., Cond., Adah, Electa, Ruth, Martha, Secretary, and Chaplain.

REMAIN STANDING UNTIL THE SOUND OF THE GAVEL