A FLAG SERVICE

Enter the flag bearer, dressed as Columbia, carrying the wrapped flag. Two assistants dressed in white follow and stand on either side and a little behind Columbia. They take their places behind, Esther's station. One assistant carries a small green wreath. Music should be furnished for all marching.

Columbia: Worthy Matron, there are those who would know the essence of our flag. Can you help to disseminate this knowledge?

Worthy Matron: The flag of the Eastern Star carries within its folds the faith of our fathers, the love of our mothers and the hope of all humanity. But let those speak who have contributed to the beauty of the flag. Sister Electa, what is your gift to the flag of the Eastern Star?

(As each officer is addressed, she rises at her station.)

Electa: The faith of our fathers, for which the crimson blood was shed. A symbol of the love and fervency that should actuate all who serve the truth.

"For thy red stripes heart's blood hath
poured like rain, lead thou us on—
A million men for thy bright stars were slain, yet lead us on.
Lead now to peace, for brighter light appears,
Lead, glorious flag, through all the coming years."

Worthy Matron: Sister Esther, what do you contribute to the flag?

Esther: The white light of purity, a symbol of joy that comes to every one who is willing to sacrifice for love of nation.

"From the broad Atlantic harbors,
Where the thronging thousands wait,
To the West, whose sunset glories
Flood Pacific's "Golden Gate."
O'er our blooming plains and prairies,
O'er the mountain summits grand,
Every breeze the message carries,
This shall be Immanuel's land."

Worthy Matron: Sister Adah, what did you give for the flag?

Adah: The fidelity of our Pilgrim Fathers, who sacrificed the ease and comforts of life to preserve the faith.

"Bravely they laid their all upon the altar,
Counting as naught the sacrifice and pain,
Their but to do and die without a falter,
Ours to enjoy the victory and the gain."

Worthy Matron: Sister Ruth, tell us, what is your contribution to the flag of the Eastern Star?
Ruth: The gold of constancy, that filled the hearts of those who endured privations and hardships that it might float above us forever.
"Fear not for our flag or our freedom,
While the hearts of the homes are true,
For in home shines the golden allegiance
For the red and the white and the blue."

Worthy Matron: Sister Martha, did you contribute aught to the flag?

Martha: The verdant wreath of victory, the symbol of immortality, which is the hope of all.
"Red is the hue of battle,
The pledge of victory won;
White is the sign of purity,
And joy in work well done.
Blue is the tint in heaven,
The morning's cloudless arch;
Yellow the gleam of the harvest
The gold of true reward.
But green is the immortal,
The hope beyond the grave-
The emblem of eternal
Which God, the Father, gave."

As each Star Point speaks, the color appropriate to that point is slowly unrolled from the flagstaff by one of the assistants. As Martha speaks, instead of the green streamer being unrolled from the flag, a small green wreath is hung on the point of the flagstaff by the assistant.

The Worthy Matron calls up the chapter and the flag is carried proudly to the East at the right of the Worthy Matron. Columbia speaks the following from "Freedom Our, Queen," by Oliver Wendell Holmes:

Columbia:
"The flag of the Eastern Star waves in the sun,
Blazoned with starnelusters, many in one,
Here at the altar our vows we renew,
Still in thy cause to be loyal and true.
Hope of the world, thou hast broken its chains,
Wear thy bright colors, while a nation remains.
Freedom! sweet freedom! our voices repeat,
Crown her with star-jewels and glory replete.
Earth for her heritage, God for her friend,
She shall reign over us, world without end."

The flag is then placed in standard, all singing "The Flag of the Eastern Star," by Carrie Baxter Jennings.

"The red, white and blue of our country's flag,
The flag of our country forever;
Add the sterling gold of the hearts of old,
Who vowed naught its folds should dissever;
Let the verdant sheen of the living green
Fling its banner wide and far,
And steadfast and true to the red, white and blue,
Floats the banner of the Eastern Star."
"The flag of the free is our pride and boast,
   Her stars light the heavens above us;
Her folds catch the breezes from coast to coast,
   And shelter the dear ones who love us;
And side by side with a loyal pride
   In each red and silver bar.