THE VISION OF ROBERT MORRIS

Dedicated to Bro. W. B. Bielenberg, PWGP 1934-35 of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota, Order of the Eastern Star. The inspiration to write and arrange this addenda was prompted by the recommendation of Bro. Bielenberg, who during his year in Grand Chapter made the recommendation that the 1st or 2nd meeting of September in every chapter in the State of Minnesota be set aside to renew our obligations, learn again the landmarks and have rekindled in our hearts the fundamental teachings of our Order and dedicate this night to Robert Morris, the founder of our Order and Poet Laureate of Masonry who was born on August 31, 1818. I, therefore, commit this addenda to that service with the hope that this recommendation involved.

DIRECTIONS:
Room should be dimly lighted; vocal or instrumental music may be introduced as may seem best. There should be music for every movement on the floor, when Reader does not read. As written, this addenda requires only the star points, chaplain, worthy matron and patron. Reader should stand in the background and be someone that reads clearly, slowly and with expression. Star points may be dressed in cheesecloth robes in colors appropriate to their station, or in white. Star points carry flowers of color appropriate to their station. When a star point leaves altar she goes to her station as directed and may sit or stand as desired by director.

OPTIONAL:
Variations with minor changes: All officers might be in their stations: all officers other than of worthy matron and patron, chaplain, and points can surround the points making a circle around the chaplain, and points at the time of prayer, and a retiring march worked out. Instead of points making labyrinth march in going to station at the proper time of her to leave the altar, she picks up a piece of wide crepe paper ribbon which is rolled on altar and stretches it to her station going directly to her chair from altar. If this way is chosen, points do not form circle around altar at time the worthy patron gives obligation and worthy matron gathers flowers alone from altar as reader reads.

This addenda may be eliminated or added to as desired.

READER:
One hundred and ...... years ago on August 31, 1818, our founder, Robert Morris was born near Boston, Mass. He passed from this life in 1888 at LaGrange, Ky. having lived the allotted span of three score years and ten.

Dr. Morris was, during his lifetime, probably the widest known mason in the country, if not in the world. He was crowned poet laureate of free masonry and a greater part of his life was devoted to Masonic research. The most enduring and magnificent monument that perpetuates his memory, is the Order of the Eastern Star, which owes its existence to Brother Morris.

He was inspired with an idea and urge to found a sister organization to the great Masonic Brotherhood. It was no easy task. It took enthusiasm, persistence and sacrifice of other duties. But determination met with success and so we meet here tonight to testify by our devotion to an ideal; as we meet we may well ask ourselves "was it worth while undertaking?" "Has it added anything to the sum total of social good?" Fraternal organizations have been ever a potent influence in society. Our brother organization dates its origins centuries back in the history of man, and it is as vigorous as ever. It has in it seeds of immortality. Our own order though not as old, has also found its place in society. Its ethical lessons find their birth deep in the strivings of mankind for the good life; values that throughout the ages have been carried down by the generations of men who have lived and gone, and as these lessons strike their roots deep in the human heart they too are unperishable.
By permission and guidance from the Divine Providence, Dr. Robert Morris was inspired with a love so divine that before "He lay down for his last sleep, he prepared these symbolic truths for the enlightenment of womankind and christened it "Order of the Eastern Star." The vision which this great man had was an earnest desire to bring the minds of millions of men and women with communion and harmony with the Infinite and the divine source of truth and love. Side by side with the Masonic Brothers, the Eastern Star will live on. So as we dedicate this evening to our beloved founder, may we re-dedicate our lives at the Shrine of the Eastern Star and continue to exemplify in our lives the virtues for which the Star in the East Shines. The vision of Robert Morris was represented by five pointed emblematic star, exemplifying the five greatest lessons of Life.

(Enter Adah, approaches altar between Ruth and Esther's chair; goes to west of altar and stands while reader continues).

READER:

The first was the daughter's point or the point of Adah and exemplifies the lesson of fidelity taken from the Scripture the 11th chapter of Judges 3-9. The color appropriate to this degree is blue, and symbolizes fidelity and teaches us to be faithful to all moral obligations. (Adah places flowers on altar) As we travel along life's road, we cannot have too often this lesson called to our attention. The story of Jeptha's daughter teaches the importance of fidelity to a spoken vow and the first lesson for us is to keep sacredly the vows we have taken at the altar. "And Jeptha came to Mispeh unto his house and behold his daughter came out to meet him and she was the only child, and it came to pass that when he saw her, he rent his clothes and said (here, Adah gives pass) Thou hast brought be very low, for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord and I cannot go back. Adah replied, 'My father, if thou has opened thy mouth unto the Lord, do unto me which has proceeded out of thy mouth' and a deed was consumated that has rendered the name of Jeptha's daughter famous in the annals of Scripture. (Here Adah gives sign and leaves altar to appropriate music, going around left of the altar outside to Adah's station. When she reaches her station, Ruth enters and Reader continues.)

READER:

The second point was the widow's point or the point of Ruth and exemplifies obedience to the demands of honor and justice taken from the Scripture 2nd chapter of Ruth. The color appropriate to this degree is yellow (Ruth places yellow flowers) symbolizing constancy, teaching obedience to the demands of honor and justice. Ruth recognized a great filial duty and in spite of entreaties, hardships, and trials, refused to be turned back from what she believed was right. We all have duties and responsibilities that come to us, whether our station be exalted and our duties heavy or our station humble like Ruth's. We have need to be steadfast, constant, and true. "And Boaz said unto his servant, (Ruth gives pass). Ruth raised her hands to show how small were her gleanings, placed them meekly upon her breast. She proved her willingness to submit to whatever lot she might endure, casting her eyes upward appealing to God". (Ruth leaves altar to the left going around Martha's chair to the right and to Ruth's station passing to the left of the altar). (During appropriate music as she reaches her station and music continues, Esther enters and goes to Altar).

READER:

The third point was the Wife's point of Esther exemplifying fidelity to kindred and friends from the Scripture described in the book of Esther. The color appropriate to this degree is white (places flowers) symbolizing light, purity, and joy and teaches that a pure and upright life is above the tongue of reproach. Esther was called upon to choose between magnificence and splendor with a guilty conscience or purity and loyalty with probably degradation and death. "And it was when the King saw her that Queen Esther, standing in the court, obtained favor in his sight. And the King held out his golden sceptor that was in his hand. So Esther drew near and touched the top of the sceptor saying (Esther gives pass) and what is thy request, It shall be given thee even to the half of the Kingdom". The King relented from his cruel purpose and spared the chosen people. (Esther gives sign and leaves altar to the left around Electa to the right to Esther's station. Martha enters.)
The fourth point was the sister's point or the point of Martha and exemplifies a trustful faith and the hope of immortal life: from the Scriptures recorded in the book of St. John eleventh chapter 20-26. The color appropriate to this degree is green (Martha places flowers) an emblem of nature's life and beauty and a symbol of Martha's trustful faith and hope of immortal life. Without faith in a resurrection after death to a glorious life eternal the sufferings and trials of this life would be unbearable. But our faith is real. It is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen and we walk by faith and not by sight. And Martha said unto Jesus (gives sign) "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my Brother had not died." Jesus saith unto her "Thy Brother shall rise again". Martha said unto him "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus saith unto her "I am the resurrection and the Life and he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. (Martha gives pass and breaks sign and retires to station around right of Esther leaving altar to the left around Adah's chair and around right of Martha's chair to Martha's station.

The fifth was the Mother's point or the point of Electa and exemplifies the lesson of heroic endurance of the wrongs of persecution when demanded in the defense of truth. Taken from the Scripture the second Epistle of St John. The Color appropriate to this degree is red (places flowers) a symbol of that fervency which should actuate all who are engaged in the service of truth. Electa is presented as a type of the many noble women of all ages, who, for loyalty to truth have suffered. "Electa received the cross precious emblem of her Saviour's death. (Electa goes through sign) pressed it with ardor to her bosom and cast her eyes upward" Heroin is love not that we loved God but that he first loved us. If God so loved us ought we to (gives pass) (Electa retires to station leaving altar to left around Ruth's right of Ruth to Electa passing left of altar. When she reaches her station chaplain enters carrying open Bible and as she enters labyrinth Reader continues).

With reverence we approach the altar, which represents the seat of power. The open Bible (Chaplain places Bible) is a symbol of the word of God and the light of the world. The altar is a holy thing, with the open Bible upon it, therefore, it is forbidden to pass between it and the East, it is holy ground. The obligation we take at the altar is a solemn pledge not only to each other, but to God and to our better and higher selves. It is a sacred promise made in the presence of many, that we will be true to the Golden Rule given by the Master, who, when on earth once said "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men would do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law." When we enter and leave the Labyrinth we form a circle, reminding us that the obligation we take at the altar is not for this time alone, but for eternity, even though our membership in the Order may cease. (Worthy Patron descends to east of altar and star points close in at their respective points of the altar. Worthy Matron calls up the chapter--Worthy Patron instructs all to repeat after him the obligation). (At close of obligation chapter is seated: Worthy Patron returns to station (soft music) and worthy matron descends to east of altar. (The points one by one starting with Adah pick up blue flowers from altar and hands them to Ruth, who picks up her yellow flowers and together with the blue ones hands them all to Esther and so on to Electa, who picks up red flowers and gives them all to the Worthy Matron who has the five different colors of ribbons and binds them together, then places them in center of altar in memory of Robert Morris. As Adah starts picking up her flowers Reader reads:)

(Very slowly) One without the other, incomplete, but together they form a harmonious combination. (Walts until worthy matron takes them and starts binding them with ribbon then READER continues) these are bound with a band of fraternal love and are fairest among thousands altogether lovely and in loving memory of our beloved founder Dr. Robert Morris, we place these flowers upon the altar. Let us Pray (Praying may be given by chaplain or Reader) (Chapter is called up).
Our Dear Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the life of our beloved founder, Dr. Robert Morris and for the wisdom given that inspired him to illustrate the five greatest lessons of life, symbolized and exemplified in our beautiful Order of the Eastern Star. We ask thee, Dear Father, to help us keep close to these teachings, and may we show to the world that the members of this Order are linked together in the joy of unselfish service and try to follow Him, who went about doing good. May we measure up to the professions of our beautiful Order and followed the guiding light of His star that shines in the East. Amen.

(Blest be the Tie That Binds" by all - then soft music and all retire. Chapter is seated. (Worthy Matron and Chaplain leaving first the star points follow.)