

A luminous cross is in the East immediately in front of the Worthy Matron's pedestal. Between the Altar and this cross is a strip of white carpeting. This is a candle - light ceremony, and each member taking part carries a lighted candle. Soft music is played throughout the ceremony with the exception of prayer time.

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

O. E. S. GRAND  
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We pause with silent and reverent hearts  
In the hush of this solemn hour,  
To pay our tribute of honor and love  
To those who have gone before.

God has given to each an allotted time  
On this earth, to labor for Him;  
And, when our tasks are completed,  
He calls us home again.

So we know to all comes a parting--  
That some must pass through the gate,  
While others serve on, undaunted,  
Or,--"only stand and wait."

But, we who have seen His Star in the East,  
And followed His Light all the way,  
Can face this parting with courage,  
With faith in a brighter day.

Sister Grand Secretary, you will read the names of our loved ones in whose memory this service is held.

GRAND SECRETARY: During the past year the following members have left their earthly home for that promised life toward which we all strive. (Reads names) (See List in Back of Proceedings)

Beyond the sunset they have gone  
To dwell where there is no night,  
And thus they live forever more  
Though out of mortal sight.  
At home in the beautiful hills of God,  
In the valley of rest so fair,  
Some day, some time, when our task is done  
With joy we shall meet them there.

WORTHY GRAND MATRON: Let us pray.

As the Chaplain prays, the lights are slowly dimmed, so that at the close, the Chapter room is quite dim.

CHAPLAIN: Dear Father of us all, we remember the names and the good deeds of our dear members, who have left us during this past year. No words of mine are necessary for those who had only loving thoughts and kindly service. We thank Thee, Father, for this remembrance of our fellow workers who have gone to meet Thee face to face. We miss them, yet our grief is for our own loneliness and loss. We ask that Thy Presence be with us in this service, to add strength and beauty to our efforts. Let the comfort of Thy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. May the memories of our loved ones be a guiding light down the path of time that leads to Immortality. In Jesus Name, we ask it. Amen.



HYMN: SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER Duet--Inez Dammen (71), Merilla Brasel (71). Chaplain remains kneeling while hymn is sung; she then rises and remains standing in front of the Altar through the rest of the ceremony and until the closing prayer.

In the dim light, four Sisters carrying lighted candles, move slowly forward, enter the labyrinth--two north and two south of Esther's chair--and continue East. Two take positions facing each other at the extreme East end of the white carpet; the other two turn north and south respectively--one behind Adah's chair, and one behind Electa's chair.

WORTHY GRAND PATRON: (As the first four Sisters are taking their positions.) As we cherish the memory of our loved ones who have passed from our circles of friendship, we are reminded of their devotion to our Order. Great was their Fidelity, and they served in ways of love and integrity. Guided by the light of understanding; guided by the teachings of our Order--they walked in the Light and believed the light of a pure life would shine forever and ever.

Four more Sisters move slowly forward in the same manner as the first four--two proceed East and stand facing each other next to the first two; the other two take positions beside the first two behind Adah's and Electa's chairs.

WORTHY GRAND PATRON: (As the Sisters take their positions) May we at this time be reminded of the merits of these faithful members as they served in courage and love, and may the joys of our past associations lessen the sadness of our parting. The light they shed upon our pathway will remain ever beautiful in our memory. 'Tis these lights whose symbolic rays will direct all travelers on their way. Let us seek the light that has ever shone to direct our footsteps to a high throne.

Four more Sisters move slowly forward, enter the Labyrinth, and two continue East, to stand in line with others, while two move to stand behind Ruth's and Martha's chairs, respectively.

WORTHY GRAND PATRON: (As the Sisters take their positions.) Men and women of all ages have sought to comprehend the mysteries of eternal life. Although men of science have solved little on this plane of learning; yet our faith gives comfort to our belief. It is fitting that we open the Book of Memory, and visualize the constancy and humility of these departed dear ones, while we recognize their trustful faith and hope. They stood for these ideals, and lived lives of beauty and service.

Four more Sisters enter as the preceeding four, and while two move East, two stand beside the two at the stations of Ruth and Martha.

WORTHY GRAND PATRON: (As the Sisters take their positions.) The green valleys and the flowers of spring are an annual proof of the truth of Resurrection. We are assembled here to give thanks to God for His perfect gift, and to be happy that our departed members walked in the rain and sunshine of this earth and merited the gift of Immortality by a service of unselfishness and obedience. Because "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life," we have hope--hope for those gone on, and hope for better things for us as we take the torch they have dropped and live with courage and love.



Four more Sisters move forward, and while two continue East to stand in the double row, facing each other, the other two move to stand behind Ester's chair.

WORTHY GRAND PATRON: (As the Sisters take their positions.) The service of true love makes a light on life's highway. The service according to this light, making purity and joy apparent in both thought and deed, makes each light brighter, and the flame purer. When the chain of friendship is broken, we will ever see the radiance of light, and our memories will be rich with the treasure of having known and loved these departed members. These memories will be our inspiration, and our star of beauty will remind us that the foundation they left demands our action in the future. Thus the links will remain unbroken, and our memories will be precious. Let us pray.

CHAPLAIN: (Kneeling at the Altar.) Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy infinite gift of Thy Son, our Salvation. We thank Thee for the lives and service of these departed friends, who rest from their labors. We pray for vision to see beyond today, for new ways of service and for the courage to go forward in these ways. We pray Thee for the comfort which is beyond our understanding, which each one needs in his hour of trial. We cannot know Thy plan, but we trust in Thy comfort and promises--and when our allotted time shall come, may we accept Thy lighted way joyously and confidently. In this quiet hour, we ask these blessings in Jesus' Name. Amen.

HYMN: NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD. Duet--Inez Dammen (71), and Merilla Brasel (71). Chaplain remains kneeling while hymn is sung; she returns to her station after the final words of the Worthy Grand Matron.

WORTHY GRAND MATRON: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." Let us in reverent love, light our candles and follow where He leads.

To soft music, the Sisters retire, walking north and south respectively to the edge of the Chapter room then turn west out of the room. As they reach the star point stations, the Sisters behind the chairs fall in the line.