The Worthy Matron sounds the gavel.

Worthy Grand Matron:

Let us turn our thoughts to "Our Absent Ones" in the land of the beyond - the Beautiful land of peace and rest - the land which we all await with joy when our earthly days are over. Many of our friends and loved ones are already there to welcome our coming. We think of them today with serenity of mind for we are assured by the blessed Book that they have received fulfillment of the precious promises of our Master. Sister Grand Secretary will you give us the names of those who have gone to that land afar?

GRAND SECRETARY:

During the past year the following members have answered the summons of Death's Angel, although they are no longer with us, their memory lingers on.

(READ NAMES)

w J m.

"I laid it down in silence,
This work of mine,
And took what had been sent me -
A resting time,
The Master's voice had called me
To rest apart;
Apart with Jesus only,
ECHOED MY HEART."

ASSOCIATE GRAND MATRON:

When the effulgent sun set in the West, the colorful rays of light cover the horizon with the glorious blaze of beauty; so it is with those "Absent Ones" of whose memory we honor today.

Their goodness, kindness, courtesy, and grace shine brightly and will remain in our memory like the glorious never to be forgotten sunset.

MUSIC: - - - - - - - "In the Garden" - - - - - - - duet.

(Soft music) -

The District Deputies enter and form a star outside the star point stations. Marshal and Chaplain go to their places inside of the labyrinth. Marshal carries a basket of flowers, to be placed in front of the Alter, slightly to the south side.

STAR POINTS STAND

ADAH:

Blue is the color of the sweet for-get-me-not. It is also the color of the ray at the point of our Star which teaches that when we are faithful or obedient, we can face even death without fear.

In remembrance of those faithful ones who have passed on, we form this blue point in our Star.

(The district deputies form the blue point of the star with blue ribbon.)
RUTH:

The hours spent in service for those we love are as precious as gold. The companionship of dear ones satisfies our human longing just as much as the golden grain satisfies our natural hunger.

May this yellow point of our star bring a loving remembrance of the golden hours spent with our "Absent Ones". Our time together seems as beautiful as the setting sun's last rays of light.

(The district deputes form the yellow point of the star with yellow ribbon.)

ESTHER:

White is the color emblematic of those who were gentle and pure as white blossoms.

In the remembrance of those who were pure in heart and who lived above the tongue of reproach, we ask that each of us may live so that when we come into the presence of our Heavenly King, the golden scepter of pardon may be extended to each one of us. We hope that we may win and wear the eternal crown of victory over evil.

(The district deputes form the white point of the star with white ribbon.)

MARTHA:

The faith of Martha has sustained many a weary heart in its sorrow. Martha's color is green — the hue used by nature to express that which is alive. In the Bible it is written "Because I live, ye shall live also." "Though ye were dead, yet shall ye live."

May this green point of our Star remain as a symbol of our Faith in Life Eternal.

(The district deputes form the green point of the star with green ribbon.)

ELECTA:

The rose of Electa is red — as red as the precious blood which flowed from the Calvary in order that all might be saved from death. Jesus died for us so that we might know that Life is Eternal.

Of the maid whom he raised from the dead, he said, "She is not dead, but sleepeth," and he wakened her. So it is with our Absent Ones.

The red ray of our Star teaches of a love which is constant and undying. This is the Love that we have for our "Absent Ones."

(The district deputes form the red point of the star with red ribbon.)

MARSHAL ADVANCES TO THE ALTAR, PLACES BASKET OF FLOWERS THERE.

MARSHAL:

In memory of our absent members, I place this basket of flowers as a token of the love and respect which they have in our hearts.

We know that there is not death to such as these, neither darkness nor shadow of dark, only such a bright fading as the long shining gleam of a morning star.

For Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."
Marshal steps back into place - Chaplain goes to Altar and offers prayer.

CHAPLAIN:

Our Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the promise of eternal life to all who love Thee. Help us to gather together the broken links of our chapter and continue to do the great work that those who have been taken from us left unfinished. May the Star in the East continue to guide us until we are received into our heavenly home. All this we ask in the name of Him who taught us to pray:

"The Lords Prayer" -

(end)

Dear Sister

Please learn your part in this memorial service, go over it several times so that it will be familiar to you. This will make the practice much shorter. Sister Helen will schedule the time of practice.

Looking forward to seeing you at Grand Chapter.