MEMORIAL SERVICE - 1976

"TO DIE IS TO LIVE"

 Virgil L. Black
 O.E.S. GRAND CHAPTER LIBRARY

Setting: A large urn is placed in front of the podium in the East. On either side of the urn candelabras, holding white candles, stand, thus forming a focal point of interest.

Lights: The auditorium lights are dimmed at the beginning of the memorial service; spot lights give emphasis on the Altar during the draping of the Altar; then on the urn when the ceremony includes placing the symbolic colors of the five points.

Music: "The Lord Is In His Holy Temple"

(Candles are lighted by the Grand Marshal and Grand Chaplain)

Worthy Grand Matron: Sisters and Brothers, we pause in the midst of our fraternal activities to remember our dear ones who have found their way into Eternal Life. For Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Light! No man comes to the Father but by me." .. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Solo: "He's Only a Prayer Away"

(When solo is completed, soft organ music continues as Grand Conductress, Associate Grand Conductress, Grand Warder and Grand Chaplain stand. The Grand Chaplain (carrying the Altar Cloth) walks, passing the Associate Grand Conductress. Then Associate Grand Conductress walks toward Altar, between Grand Martha and Grand Electa.

At the same time the Grand Warder is advancing to the point between Grand Ruth and Grand Esther, at the time the Grand Chaplain reaches the point between Grand Martha and Grand Esther.

As the Grand Conductress walks from her station toward the Altar she enters the labyrinth between
Grand Adah and Grand Ruth, arriving simultaneously with the Associate Grand Conductress, The Grand Warder and the Grand Chaplain.

Grand Warder lifts the Holy Bible from the Altar and steps back, while the Grand Chaplain assumes her place between the Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress. The Grand Conductresses proceed with the draping of the Altar; then the Grand Warder extends the Holy Bible to Grand Chaplain who places the Bible upon the Altar.

Each officer backs slowly from the Altar, following the same line as when each entered the labyrinth; return to stations. (ORGAN MUSIC IS PLAYED)

GRAND SECRETARY: (Rises, carrying Scroll, and walks toward the West, entering the labyrinth between Grand Esther and Grand Ruth)
Upon this Altar is placed the Scroll, bearing the names of Our Sisters and Brothers who have entered into their Eternal Home. "Blessed are those whose names have been written in the Book of Life."

We know that God knows best.

(Scroll having been placed, the Grand Secretary backs from the Altar, leaving between Grand Esther and Grand Ruth.)

(ORGAN MUSIC)

PAST GRAND MATRON: A Tribute to Sister Lois L. Lukins, Past Grand Matron of North Dakota and member of the ESTARL Committee of General Grand Chapter - by Sister Marian Hofstrand, Past Grand Matron of North Dakota.

GRAND CHAPLAIN: (Grand Chapter is called up, standing in reverence) (approaches the Altar or the podium)

Our Father, we thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to loved ones who have joined you in your Heavenly Home. We thank you for the privilege of having called them Sister and Brother, - for our lives have been blessed because they were here. We thank you for the priceless gift of Life which you have given us, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. We thank you for the knowledge that in order to reach out for Thy gift of Eternal Life, we must die to live; even a tiny seed must die before it can live again. This cycle of life is a part of your Divine Plan - "To Die is to Live Again". Amen.

(Grand Chapter is seated; Grand Chaplain returns to her station)

(ORGAN MUSIC)
ASSOCIATE GRAND MATRON: (stands in the West) "Death is not an end; it is only a beginning."

Flowers mean many things to us. A flower may be a symbol of a smile of happiness, or thoughts of Love, or a symbol of sympathy at time of sorrow. According to God's plan, flowers will fade and die, yet with the change of seasons, they will bloom again in all their beauty, proving to all mankind, that God alone controls all Resurrections!" (Associate Grand Matron is seated)

SOLO: "Thy Word is Like a Garden Lord"

(ORGAN MUSIC)

GRAND ADAH: (stands, holding her blue carnation and says...)

"In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you; I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am ye may be also."

(Walks toward Altar and lays the flower on the southeast corner of the Altar) ..... (backs from Labyrinth, returning to her chair)

... With a heart full of fidelity may we walk in paths of righteousness, as we have the memory of our Sisters and Brothers.

GRAND RUTH: (stands, when Grand Adah reaches her station; holding yellow carnation and says...)

"Our Savior said, 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted!'. And He also said, "I will never leave thee; lo, I am with you always - even to the end of the world."

(Walks toward Altar and lays the flower on the south side of the Altar) ..... (backs from Labyrinth, returning to her chair)

... Yea, tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; May we remember the patient industry of our departed Sisters and brothers.

GRAND ESTHER: (stands, when Grand Ruth reaches her station; holding white carnation and says...)

Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."
"For Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."

(Walks toward Altar and lays the flower on the west side of the Altar) ..... (backs from Labyrinth, returning to her chair)
In this hour of remembrance may we have memories of unselfish loyalty of our departed Sisters and Brothers.

GRAND MARTHA: (stands when Grand Esther reaches her station; holding green carnation and says...)

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in me, though her were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

(Walks toward Altar and lays the flower on the west side of the Altar)
backs from Labyrinth, returning to her chair)

May we too have trustful faith and hope of immortal life. Let our faith increase through the memory of our loved ones.

GRAND ELECTA: (stands when Grand Martha reaches her station; holding red carnation and says. . .)

Jesus told his disciples, "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Our hearts are full of the remembrance of blessings given to us - blessings of love, friends, family and this beautiful Order.

(Walks toward Altar and lays the flower on the northeast side of the Altar). . .
(backs from Labyrinth, returning to her chair)

May we remember with Love each departed one, knowing that someday our hearts will join in the Light of Eternal Day.

S O L O : "One Sweetly Solemn Thought"

ORGAN MUSIC)

GRAND CHAPLAIN: (Advances to the Altar)

"The Lord gave; the Lord hath taken away..."

Our Father, we have dedicated these moments in honor of those who have gone to their Eternal Home. Give us strength to do Thy will at all times and the Faith to believe that Thou knowest what is best for us.

"And when the snows of sorrow come, as snows of sorrow will, The seeds of Hope lie dormant then, but go on living still."
We thank Thee for the promise of Eternal Life and the knowledge that To Die is To Live." Amen

SOLO: "God So Loved the World"