

MEMORIAL SERVICE - 1978

Ella Mae Rowe, Grand Chaplain

"GARDEN OF PRAYER"

SETTING:

The black, picket garden gate, adorned with two gold crosses, sets between two stone posts, on one post is perched a singing bluebird. In front of the garden gate is a garden plot which is lined with red geraniums. Placed in the center of the plot on a raised podium is a replica of the Open Holy Bible. On the left side of this Bible is found the Serenity Prayer, and on the right side is found the Praying Hands. The pages of the book are outlined in gold and a purple, velvet book marker completes the book. Framing the garden plot are plants in the emblematic colors on plant stands (step ladder fashion). Plants are placed in the garden by the Grand Star Point Officers as service progresses.

Soft organ music is played throughout the service except when the prayer and benediction are given.

LIGHTS:

The auditorium lights are dimmed at the beginning of the service. Spotlight on Altar until after Grand Chaplain completes prayer and then the spotlight is focused on the Open Holy Bible in the garden.

PREFACE: WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

Let us pause in reverent tribute from the tensions and haste of our daily lives to remember those of our beloved Order who have answered the call of our Heavenly Father. Death comes equally to us all and makes us all equal when it comes. But, because we believe in the great truths revealed in the Word of our Lord, we know that our Sisters and Brothers are not dead, but have simply preceded us to that land where there is no pain or sorrow, only peace and joy. God's greatest gift to humanity is that of faith in Him that enables us to lift the burden of death from our hearts and comfort those who mourn, for we have the hope of eternal life beyond the grave. There is an invisible Chapel in our Heart where loved ones always dwell. If we honestly believe as we say we do, then real happiness is not of this earth but of the eternal, and by our faith in the Eternal God we have sure hope. Faith overcomes our grief, eternity overcomes our mortality.

SOLO: IN THE GARDEN.....Decky Morrison, (74)

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress, you will drape the Altar, assisted by the Grand Chaplain and Grand Marshal. (Soft garden music is played while they are going to the Altar and the following:

"They have followed our Star in its splendor  
 For its light always brightened their way  
 And the memory of those whom we loved and lost  
 Brings Heaven much nearer today.  
 For death is only a door set in a garden wall,  
 On gentle hinges it gives at dusk  
 When the bluebirds call.  
 There is nothing to trouble my heart,  
 Nothing to hurt at all.  
 Death is only a quiet door  
 In an old garden wall."  
 "To a beautiful garden these friends have gone  
 To the land of perfect rest.  
 Their work is done and the setting sun  
 Has sealed their life's long quest."

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

Sister Grand Secretary, you will place upon the Altar the names of those who laid aside their earthly cares and have climbed the hills of time to the realm of infinite understanding. (Soft garden music is played while the Grand Secretary goes to the Altar.)

GRAND SECRETARY:

(Advances to Altar and repeats Matthew 11:28 as she places scroll on Altar. Spotlight on Altar until after Grand Chaplain completes prayer.  
 "And Jesus said: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

Let us unite in prayer.

Grand Chapter is called up, Chaplain goes to Altar:

GRAND CHAPLAIN:

Heavenly Father, we ask that you be with us today and grant us peace and happiness through faith, love, and prayer such as Christ found in the garden. We are lonely and frustrated in our loss and ask much as Christ did, Why me, Lord? But the answer must be the same, "Thy will be done." We know we cannot keep our loved ones except in the Chapel of our Heart. Give us faith that we may believe that Thou knowest what is best for us, and strength to live with contentment in that knowledge.



We thank thee for the promise of eternal life for all who believe in Jesus and commit their life to Him. We ask thy peace on the lives of those here assembled. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

NORTHY GRAND MATRON:

A tribute to Brother Vine D. Lord, Past Grand Patron of North Dakota, given by Sister Mary C. Houtcooper, Past Grand Matron of North Dakota.

NARRATOR:

On that Thursday evening, Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples. Jesus and the disciples left the Upper room and went out to the Garden of Gethsemane for prayer. There in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus found the comfort and understanding He needed. We, too, can find the comfort and understanding we need in our daily lives and in times of sorrow and grief if we would seek God in prayer. For, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Jesus prayed seeking the Father's will, He even asked to be delivered from drinking the cup of death, but quickly added, "Yet not my will, but what thou wilt."

Before Jesus died on the cross, He uttered, "It is finished." These words brought us our salvation. All was completed on the cross. Jesus is Lord of Lords, King of Kings! Because HE LIVES, we know that we shall live with Him through eternity.

SOLO: HE LIVES.....Becky Morrison (74)

STAR POINT OFFICERS PLACE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN: Verna Davis  
Thelma Shaver  
Myrtle Morrison  
Harlys Paulsen  
Coleen Kinzley

(Plants are on a small plant stand that frame the garden plot. Each officer goes toward the East, takes the plant of her color and places it in the garden, and then steps to the back of the garden gate.

NARRATOR: Grand Adah rises as he says:

God abides in man's heart and speaks with the clear unconquerable cry of hope that cannot die.

(As she moves toward the garden, the narrator says)

Then from the station of Adah's blue ray  
We remember the members who are just away  
Beyond the hills, but awaiting us there  
May we meet in Heaven is our earnest prayer.

(She then places the plant as this is said)

Blue symbolizes Fidelity.

GRAND RUTH: (In the same manner as Grand Adah)

NARRATOR:

Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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 there ye may be also."

Like humble Ruth, the Gleaner fair,  
May we constant be in our daily prayer.  
Then when our work on earth is through  
May we have a Celestial home beyond the blue.

Yellow symbolizes Constancy.

GRAND ESTHER: (In like manner)

NARRATOR:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Noble Queen Esther, a symbol of right  
Like rays of the sun, sheds pure light  
May our Sisters and Brothers find comfort and peace  
In the words of the Master, whose love will not  
cease.

White symbolizes Light, Purity, and Joy.

GRAND MARTHA: (In like manner)

NARRATOR:

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow or crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

Kindly Martha, with her burden of grief  
Found comfort there from the Master and sweet relief  
May we then remember in time of sorrow  
Though today may be dark,  
There will be sunshine tomorrow.

Green is an emblem of nature's life and beauty.

GRAND ELENA: (In like manner)

NARRATOR:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen thine heart.



Electa was a lady of courage and love,  
 Who prayed for strength from the Father above.  
 May we then in our hours of trouble and trial  
 Find the grace to love and the faith to smile.

Red symbolizes Fervency and Zeal.

GRAND CHOIR: The Beautiful Garden of Prayer.

BENEDICTION:

GRAND CHAPLAIN: (Walks slowly and reverently to the garden and gives the benediction from there.)

"The Lord bless Thee and keep Thee; the Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace."

GRAND CHAPLAIN AND GRAND STAR POINTS REMAIN AT THE GARDEN UNTIL AFTER THE THREEFOLD AMEN.)

GRAND CHOIR: Threefold Amen.

RESPONSE: "So may it ever be."

(The lights are gradually brightened so that they are bright by the time the Grand Choir completes the singing of the last Amen.)