

Memorial Service

ND Grand Chapter 1983

House lights are lowered throughout the service, with a spot light on the Altar, as the memorial service begins with the draping of the Altar. The Grand Chaplain, carrying the Altar drape, the Grand Marshall, Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress rise when lights are lowered. The music begins and the Grand Choir sings, "Nearer My God To Thee". The Chaplain and Marshall proceed down the North and South marching lines. As the Chaplain reaches the Associate Conductress station, the Associate Conductress proceeds very slowly toward the Altar. As the Marshall reaches the Conductress' station, she turns and goes very slowly toward the Altar. The Conductress walks down the South marching lines, arriving at the Southwest corner as the Chaplain arrives at the Northwest corner. The Conductress and the Chaplain move toward the Altar so that all four officers arrive at the same time. As the Associate Conductress and the Marshall arrive at the North and South of the Altar, and the Conductress and Chaplain arrive West of the Altar, the Worthy Grand Matron calls up the Chapter. Soft music is played throughout the entire service, except during the prayer.

The Conductress steps forward and picks up the open Holy Bible, and takes a few steps back; the Chaplain steps forward to the center of the Altar, and extends her hands, holding the drape. The Marshall and Associate Conductress take the ends of the mauve drape and place it reverently over the white Altar cloth. The Chaplain steps back and the Conductress steps forward and places the Bible upon the Altar. The Conductress steps back, and the Chaplain moves forward. The music stops and the Chaplain kneels.

Grand Chaplain:

"Our Father, who art in heaven, we bow our heads in reverence as we humbly ask Thy blessing on this service. Into Thy keeping our loved ones have gone, even though they still abide in the hearts and memories of those who they have known. We thank Thee for the lives of these loved ones who walked with us for a while. Give us the love that made them trustful and strong, and the faith that made them steadfast and true. May we live our lives in the same such way that we may be found worthy on the day of our departure. In the world where death comes not, may we realize the full happiness of loving and serving Thee forever. Amen.

Officers back out of labyrinth. Chapter is seated and music begins. Officers return to their stations in the same manner as they arrived.

Spot light is now on the white cross in the East.

Worthy Grand Matron:

Sisters and Brothers, we come together in the stillness of this sacred hour, not in sadness nor in sorrow, but in reverent memory to pay loving tribute to the lives of those who have passed through the labyrinth of human life to that city not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. The portal swung briefly open and a loved one slipped away from life's shadow into bright Eternal Day, where earthly grief is forgotten, where pain shall be no more, to peace. God opened wide the portal. Our silence is in memory of our dear ones, who were the possessors of the Keys of Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love, with which they unlocked the portal to their Eternal Home. Our dear ones have only passed into the sunset's glow, leaving precious memories that nothing can take away.

Worthy Grand Patron:

It is eminently fitting when Eastern Stars of this Grand Jurisdiction meet in annual communication, that we should set aside a Memorial Hour in which to recount the name and fame of those of our Sisters and Brothers, who, during the year have departed from our midst. These members knew the happiness of warm friendships that brighten life's path, they knew the happiness of doing work for the pleasure it gives, knew the joy of being able to do, to give and to help. They knew the meaning of Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love. They knew that Faith builds a bridge across the gulf of death, that Faith is the substance of things hoped for, for the evidence of things not seen, that Faith is the subtle chain which binds us to the Infinite.

Worthy Grand Matron:

Grand Secretary, you will place upon the Holy Altar the Memorial Scroll bearing names of those who have passed through the portal to their Eternal Home.

Grand Secretary slowly approaches Altar, carrying scroll in which a pink rose is enfolded. As she places the scroll upon the Altar, the narrator reads:

"there is an open portal at the end of the road through which each must go alone. Beyond the portal our loved ones find happiness and rest, and there is comfort in the thought that our loving God knows best."

Spot light is returned to the Altar as the Grand Secretary leaves her station. It remains on the Altar until the Worthy Grand Matron directs the following tributes, at which time it returns to the white cross in the East.

In memory of all the Past Grand Matrons of this Grand Jurisdiction. (Grand Treasurer places a pink rose among the violets.)

In memory of all the Past Grand Patrons of this Grand Jurisdiction. (Worthy Grand Patron places pink rose among the violets.)

In memory of all our Sisters and Brothers that answered the call of their Master. (Worthy Grand Matron places rose among the violets.)

Solo: "He Touched Me" Nancy Silliman (45)

As "He Touched Me" is being sung, the Grand Star Points will rise, and slowly move toward the West, to a point in back of Esther's chair. Spot light will pick up Grand Adah as she turns to Northwest corner to approach the East. As the Star Points are approaching the West, the Grand Chaplain will go to the East where a memorial wreath will be placed on the Cross. After she has it in place, she returns to her chair and is seated. Grand Adah places gold key on the wreath.

Narrator: Somewhere back of the sunset,
 Where loveliness never dies,
 They live in a land of glory
 'Mid the blue and gold of the skies.

 And we, who have known and loved them
 Whose passing have brought sad tears,
 Will cherish their memory always
 To brighten the passing years.

Grand Adah: (Narrator)

Adah's Key to the Kingdom is Fidelity. Our Saviour said, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." Fidelity to convictions of right and duty as demonstrated by the heroic courage of Adah is, to us, a reassurance that we will be rewarded for our faithfulness in keeping our vows and obligations.

Grand Adah takes a position in the back and to the south of the cross as Grand Ruth approaches the cross and places her key upon the wreath.

Grand Ruth: (Narrator)

Another Key to the Kingdom is Constancy. Our Saviour 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." May these words help you to be obedient to the demands of honor and justice in all conditions of life. Even though our stations in life may vary, each of us can best demonstrate our love and devotion to our Order and our friends by emulating the virtues as illustrated in the life of Ruth.

Grand Ruth takes her position next to Adah as Grand Esther approaches the cross and places her Key upon the wreath.

Grand Esther: (Narrator)

Loyalty is a Key to the Kingdom as well. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Decisions that are sometimes difficult and even hazardous, if made like Esther's in the light of Loyalty, especially to that of liberty and justice to friends and family, will be acceptable. They will fill the heart and soul with a light that shines as brilliant as our deeds.

Grand Esther follows same procedure as Adah and Ruth.

Grand Martha: (Narrator)

Faith opens the Portal of the Kingdom. "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Today the presence of loved ones fills our cup with joy -- tomorrow sore bereavement casts us into the valley of sorrow. In our journey over the pathway of life, we should always have the trustful Faith of Martha toward the Master. His assurance of immortality will lead us toward the Eternal Light. Beyond the grave, our loved ones gone before, are waiting to welcome us to our Eternal Home.

Grand Martha follows same procedure.

Grand Electa: (Narrator)

The love exemplified by Electa is another Key to the Kingdom. "So, when your earthly light is extinguished, a new light appears in Heaven to add its lustre to the brightness of that House not made with hands. Electa's love teaches that truth and faith will strengthen us for an ordeal. Self denial, with gifts to those less fortunate, will appear like the bright Star of Bethlehem to guide us to that greatest of all virtues, love for another.

The Grand Star points will then return to their chairs, followed by the Grand Chaplain who goes to the Altar for the closing prayer.

Grand Chaplain:

Our Father, we bless thy name for all who have held the Keys to Thy Kingdom and entered the promised land where they now see Thee face to face. Keep alive in us the memory of those dear to us, and grant that through useful and happy lives, we too may join the triumphant pilgrimage to abide in Thy Heavenly Home and become partakers of the joys of Eternal Life. Amen.

"May The Lord Mighty Lord"..... Grand Choir