Memorial Ceremony

Lights are lowered.

O.E.S. Grand Chapter Library

W.M. speaks—During the past year some of our loved ones have been called to their eternal rest, and we pause to dedicate this time to their memory. As we do so, we extend sympathy to all who mourn, and in our consciousness comes the blessed assurance that at life's close, all will be well.

The object of this service is not to make us sorrowful, but rather to commemorate the virtues exemplified in the lives of our departed ones. We know that after the setting of the sun, comes another sunrise in the land eternal.

Sister Marshal, you have by your chair a basket. Will you carry it now to the altar? 

The Marshal takes the basket (which was placed by her station earlier in the evening) and goes to Adler who speaks and places in the basket a blue flower (flowers). Adler speaks:—We do not walk alone through sorrow for God is by our side.

So we may gather courage from the strength He provides.
Ruth speaks:

From our chapter these links have fallen, from our vision the stars have set
But engraved in memory's garden, their good deeds we shall not forget.

(Each star placed places flowers - Marshal advances to altar
The flowers may be colors appropriate to station)

Esther speaks:

A crown of righteousness for those whom the heavenly pathway trod,
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see their God.

Martha speaks:

Jesus saith unto her, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever believeth in me shall never die."

Electa speaks:

How great is the love of our Father Divine, that we lost not our dearest and best.
We find them again with Him, safe at home in the Garden of Eternal Rest.

After Electa speaks the Marshal and chaplain then proceeds to the altar together. As Marshal and chaplain advance to altar, all officers form a prayer circle and stay there in attitude of prayer until the soliciest rump the Lords Prayer. Marshal places flowers
In loving memory of our departed Sisters and Brothers, I place this basket of flowers (before) or upon our Altar.

Chaplain speaks:

Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the love and affection of our departed Sisters and Brothers who have slipped away to dwell with Thee. We thank Thee for the influence of their lives, and for the helpfulness and encouragement they have given us along life's way. We ask Thy blessing upon those who look upward through their tears, and humbly say: May they be done, and we ask that Thou wilt be very near to them in their sorrow, and strengthen them for the trials of life. We pray that Thou wilt awaken in us that living hope, the firm assurance that Thy Son, risen from the grave, has vanquished death and the grave; and because He lives, we too shall live in the Great Beyond. And now our Father, help each one of us to spread the light of Thy love throughout the world. All this we ask in the name of Him who taught us to pray— Solloot sings: "The Lord's Prayer."