

1967

MEMORIAL SERVICE

(As presented by past matrons:

Ade'line Glaser

Ona Gilbreath

Echo Lindstrom

Marie Wolden

Mayola Doerch

Hazel Velleu), Thistle Chapter #43.

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Worthy Matron--We meet here tonight for a purpose that has the solemnity and tenderness of burial rites, without their sadness. We stand not around an open grave, but among those whom our beloved Order has decorated with love and esteem. It is an expression of gratitude, a tribute to the memory of those whose faithful service entitles them to a place in the affections of those for whom and with whom they labored. It is fitting that we pause for a few moments, and offer loving tribute to our dear departed members.

(The secretary read the names)

The Star points, having been provided with flowers of their respective colors, arose and advanced to the alter. Each in turn repeated their respective lines as given below and deposited their flowers near the Bible.

Adah--Sisters and brothers, these flowers not only remind us of the mount of "Gilead, among which was the romantic home in Mizpah" of Jephthah's daughter but they also give a glorified ideal of a future home; for nothing dies, not even life, which gives up one form only to assume another.

"Put thou thy trust in God,
Fix on His word thy steadfast gaze,
In duty's path go on:
So shall Thy work be done."

Ruth-- Sisters and brothers, these yellow flowers are "Symbolic of the ripened grain in the field of Boaz, in which Ruth was a humble gleaner." They also remind us that we must do the work that lies nearest at hand, trusting that some of the good seed that we scatter through life's journey may take root and spring up into deeds that shall reach all eternity.

"There is a land mine eyes hath seen
In visions of enraptured thought,
So bright, that all which spreads between
Is with its radiant glories fraught."

Ester-- Sisters and brothers, from time immemorial white has been regarded "as an emblem of purity!" And so now these white flowers teach us that an active and sympathetic contact with our sisters and brothers in their joys and sorrows is in obedience to the Divine will. Troubles and misfortunes have to be encountered, but these have to be encountered cheerfully because it is the will of God.

"Its skies are not like earthly skies,
With varying hue of shade and light;
It hath no need of sun to rise
To dissipate the gloom of night."

Martha--"Green is the most widely diffused of all the tints which adorn the material world and is the symbol of memory and eternity." The evergreen also reminds us that the holy word of God does not mislead. Let us not worry about what we do not understand but rejoice because "May flowers are brought to us through April clowes and showers."

" A land upon whose blissful shore
There sweeps no desolating wind;
There those who meet shall part no more,
And those long parted meet again."

Electa--"Red, one of the primary colors, is the one by which fervency and love has ever been represented." This fervent color also teaches us to love our sisters and brothers, but we can not do so by mere formalities, but by kindly acts of charity, integrity, and forgiveness, "which are the proper discoveries of grace within."

"There sweeps no desolating wind
Across that calm, serene abode;
The wanderer there a home may find
Within the Paradise of God."

The worthy matron repeated the Twenty-third Psalm. The star points alternating with every other line. (Star points resumed their stations.)

Vocal solo---"God Understands."

Worthy matron--
"We sometimes wish that life was not so bitter
And thorns did not beset the path we trod,
But could we understand the hidden meaning,
The all-wise purpose of a loving God,
If we could see beyond the veil of sorrow,
So often clouded by our falling tears,
We might discover the reasons for these partings,
Which come to all who travel down the years."

Let us pray.

Prayer at the altar by the chaplain.

Chaplain;--Father in heaven, to Thee we turn who art more than all else beside. Our times are in thine hands. "Thou hast set the sun and stars in the sky." Thou hast made one brighter than the morning, and fairer than the day. May its light lead and guide us into the harmonies of law and grace, that we may become responsive to every touch of nature, every whisper of truth, every appeal of humanity. So fit us to serve Thee in the spirit of Him whose star in the east has taught us to do Thy will on earth as it is done in heaven. Amen.