

# The Open Door

( A Memorial Service )

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This ceremony may be given under the Good of the Order following prescribed ritual as allowed in your state, or it may be given after the close of chapter.

This ceremony requires:

Five Star Points

Chaplain

Soloist

Person to carry the cross

Person to take the part at the altar

The cross may be easily cut from plywood or from styrofoam. If plywood is used, it should be covered loosely with crinkled aluminum foil. A cross about four feet high with corresponding crossarm is a nice size for the average chapter room.

Each Star Point carries a small double spray of flowers not more than 12 or 14 inches in overall length. These may be natural or artificial flowers, but should be in star point colors and all the same variety of flowers. Each spray should be tied tightly in the middle with a length of 2-1/2 inch width ribbon with ends long enough to go around the wood of the cross and tie securely in the back. A bow of ribbon in the middle of each spray adds much to its beauty.

A support upon which the cross can rest after Electa has fastened her flowers should be provided. Possibly you could borrow a piece of equipment for holding sprays from a funeral director. It will work splendidly.

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Those taking part enter from the two doors at the west end of the chapter room in the following order:

From the anteroom:

Adah  
Ruth  
Esther

Preparation room:

Chaplain  
Electa  
Martha

When the above six have reached and are standing at their stations, the person who carries the cross and the one who takes the part at the altar enter from the two doors. The one with the cross takes her place in front of and at Adah's right, facing Adah. The other stands just west of the altar.

The soloist should be seated near the instrument. She does not come in with the others.

When all are in their places, the soloist rises and sings all but the last verse of some appropriate favorite hymn. The soloist remains standing throughout the rest of the ceremony.

PERSON at the altar says:

Through an open door with cheery smile  
They have stepped from sight for a little  
while;  
We miss them, indeed, but memories  
frame  
Each one in a picture that bears his  
name;  
And who shall say that life ever ends  
As long as we live in the hearts of  
friends?

And so, in the hearts of the members of  
--- ---- Chapter will always be en-  
shrined the names of --- ----. (Here  
follow the names of those memorialized  
along with any additional data that may  
be desired.)

ADAH speaks:

The high ideals that they held  
Gave them such inner light  
They walked with honor, unafraid,  
Intent on doing right.

Adah fastens flowers lengthwise on the upper part of the upright piece of the cross. Cross is then carried to Ruth.

RUTH speaks:

We honor them for love they shared  
With friends and family,  
And as they gave so must we give  
In kindest charity.

Ruth fastens flowers on cross below Adah's blue flowers. Cross is carried to Esther.

ESTHER speaks:

Allegiance to our nation's goals  
And to our country's flag,  
They pledged with zeal and fervor that  
Was never known to lag.

Fastens flowers below the yellow flowers of Ruth so they are nearer the lower end of the upright piece. Cross is carried to Martha.

MARTHA speaks:

Their steadfast faith looked far beyond  
Time's changing, sifting sands;  
Their hope was fixed upon a home  
Not made with mortal hands.

Fastens flowers on left end of crossarm. The cross is then carried to Electa.

ELECTA says:

They gave the cup of generous aid  
To sister and to brother,  
For in God's precious, Holy Book  
They read, "Love one another."

Fastens flowers on right side of crossarm. Cross is then carried to the support provided for it and left there. The person who carried the cross now stands beside it.

PERSON at the altar says:

And now to our God, who knows what  
is best,  
We leave our beloved to whom he gives  
rest;



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And we who remain give our pledges  
anew  
To honor our Order, to be faithful and  
true.

She steps back to place between Esther and  
Ruth. The Chaplain comes to the altar.

## CHAPLAIN'S prayer:

Our gracious Heavenly Father, we are  
grateful that Thou art a loving Father  
who cares for Thy children and hears  
them when they pray. We come to Thee  
knowing that Thou art a never-failing  
source of wisdom, understanding, com-  
fort, and strength in time of need.

In Thy merciful goodness, forgive us for  
our failure to trust Thee more, and grant  
that in the strength that Thou gives we  
may go forth to live lives of such beauty  
and worth that we may claim eternal life  
through the Savior, who has promised us,  
"Because I live, ye shall live also." A-  
men.

Chaplain steps back between Martha and Esther.  
The soloist at this time sings last verse of the  
hymn used in the beginning; or you may desire  
to have her sing some song that you think par-  
ticularly fitting or which is a favorite in your  
community. If it stresses the immortality and  
the Open Door into Heaven theme, it will be  
much better.

## ORDER OF RETIREMENT:

The person standing by the cross moves up to  
Electa; they form a couple. At the same time,  
Martha turns to form couple with Chaplain;  
Adah and Ruth form couple; Esther and person  
who took part at altar form couple. They may  
leave chapter room either through separate or  
same door.

THE END