

~~Ass. Matron~~
Cannonball Chapter # 85 O.E.S.
New England, N.D. - 58647
7

O.E.S. GRAND
CHAPTER LIBRARY

Ceremony of Hope

Worthy Matron: Sisters and Brothers, we approach our Memorial hour, and we invite you to join us in paying tribute to the memory of those of our fraternal household who have preceded us to the Land of Rest. Sister Secretary, you will read the names of those who have been taken from us in the last year.

(Secretary reads names and short history.)

Worthy Matron: That which has reached perfection must pass away. The passing to us is veiled in mystery, but recalls the Divine promise, 'In my Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a home for you'. May we so live that when the summons comes we, too, may have reached a state of perfection and be worthy of the home which is prepared for us. In loving remembrance I place upon the altar the flowers of royal and exalted state. (Place a circle of purple flowers in center of altar).

Worthy Patron: When Mary Magdalene and Mary, Mother of James, approached the sepulchre where Jesus had lain, they found an angel with countenance like lightning and raiment as white as snow, and he said unto them, "Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen." Thus was the prophecy fulfilled: 'He shall rise from the dead'.

Those whom we mourn have reached the higher degree, that exalted estate which knows no sorrow. Then why shall we weep? Let us rejoice rather, at their release from earthly pain and grief. I place upon the altar the flowers of resurrection. In the hope of a happy reunion with those we love. (Place white lily in center of purple flowers.)

Adah: These flowers, like the blue of the heavens to which we raise our eyes when we think of those who have gone to our Father's home, I place here in loving tribute. (Place flowers with stems toward the center to form first ray of star.)

Ruth: Like warm sunshine in our hearts is the memory of those whose labors in the earthly fields have ended. I place these yellow flowers in loving memory of our departed ones. (Place flowers to form second ray, stems toward center.)

Esther: White flowers speak to us of the celestial state and so with pure and loving thought, and in reverent memory, I place these flowers upon the altar. (Place flowers to form third ray, stems toward center.)

Martha: The hope of immortality is associated with the evergreen. So would we believe that those of our fraternal household wait for us. In memory of kindly deeds, I place upon the altar the fadeless green. (Place greens to form fourth ray.)

Electa: The warmth of loving acts shall permeate even to the soul. The fervency of Electa's prayer is represented in these flowers which I place as a testimonial to the loving memory of those who were dear to us. (Place flowers for fifth ray, stems toward center.)

Chaplain: (Steps to altar and kneels.) We bow our heads, dear God, in submission to Thy Divine will. Teach us to pray with our hearts open to receive Thy wisdom. In Thy promise, Lord, Thou didst take away the bitter sting of parting. Grant to us the will so to live that when our shadow hour approaches, we may be worthy and ready to answer Thy call, 'Come, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.' Amen. (return to station).

Song: On separate sheet, to the tune of the Old Rugged Cross.

Associate Matron: The Lord has given, the Lord has taken away.. Blessed be the name of the Lord! The rainbow of promise was created as a reminder that on earth all things beautiful shall fade, but life beyond the grave shall be eternal. Then why should we mourn? No, let us rejoice, for the reward of eternal life has come to those who were once of our fraternal household.

Worthy Matron: May God's richest blessings attend us..

Tune: "The Old Rugged Cross"

To the Old Rugged Cross
We all cling and adore,
Its burdens we all gladly share,
For our loved ones, so dear,
Who have gone on before
Taught us its truest meaning, while here.

Chorus

So we cherish the Old Rugged Cross,
And our Chapter walks on in its light;
Clinging close to each other, and so
We'll meet where there is no more night.

2nd verse

And the dear Rugged Cross,
With its glory we love,
Is so dear to the heart of each one,
Hand in hand may we meet
With our loved ones above,
And all hear His voice saying "Well done."

Repeat chorus