MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sisters and Brothers, at this time we will dedicate a portion of this meeting to the memory of our departed members, who, in days gone by, have met with us in the holy bonds of fraternity. It is fitting at this time that we bring to the attention of this Chapter the virtues that characterized their lives and made their service to our beloved Chapter a thing to be remembered.

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, with the assistance of our Chaplain, you will drape our Altar. Sister Marshal, you will place the wreath on the Altar.

Associate Patron: Sisters and Brothers as we conduct this memorial service, let us remember Jesus' comforting words:

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.” And “In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there ye may be also.” And let the comforting assurance come to us, “That if our earthy house of this tabernacle was dissolved, we have a building of God a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.”

Worthy Patron:

As we wait for awhile in this solemn hour,
In the midst of the Labyrinth of our Star
With our Altar draped for the loved ones gone,
This time shall be a personal one.

For as on every Memorial Night
As we pause in our Altar’s quite light,
Each of us sees in his own mind’s eye - a face
That holds in our hearts a special place.

Our Eternal Father holds them now,
And our love and His love they share -
May we strive in our lives each passing day
To be worthy of His love and theirs.

(Worthy Matron: Sister Secretary, you will read the names of our departed sisters and brethren.
You will place the scroll on the Altar. Sister Marshal places wreath on Altar)
Marshal:

And when God calls the dearest ones I love
To dwell with Him in perfect bliss above;
I cannot feel that He has loosed the tie
That bound their human hearts to earth.
So I find comfort in the thought that they may be
My guardian angels keeping watch o’er me.

Conductress:

At times my heart is sad and I feel the need of cheer,
’Tis then my loved ones seem to hover very near;
I almost feel the touch of each dear hand
Upon my own, to help me understand
I still am theirs and they are mine, e’en though
They dwell in Heaven above and I on earth below.

Associate Conductress:

Not broken ties, but just a veil between
My earthy vision and that world unseen;
A little time to wait, while loved ones there
Keep tender watch, till I may share
Their perfect peace and God’s perfect love
That’s known to those who dwell with Him above.

Secretary:

No one hears the doors that open
When they pass beyond our call;
Soft as the dropping petals of a rose,
One by one our loved ones fall.
But the memory of each loved one,
Like the fragrance of the rose,
God sends to linger with us
Till our own life’s door shall close.

Adah:

They are not gone who pass
Beyond the clasp of hand,
Out from the strong embrace.
They are but come so close
We need not grope with hands,  
Nor look to see, nor try  
To catch the sound of feet.  
They have put off their shoes,  
Softly to walk by day  
Within our thoughts, to tread  
At night our dream-led paths of sleep.

Ruth:

They are not lost who find  
The sunset gate, the goal  
Of all their faithful years.  
Not lost are they who reach  
The summit of their climb;  
The peak above the clouds  
And storm.  
They are not lost who find  
The light of sun and stars -  
And God.

Esther:

One by one, we pass the stations  
In the onward march of life;  
One by one, through faith we conquer  
In the never ending strife.

Martha:

One by one, we lose the hand clasp  
That so warm a welcome gave;  
One by one, the voice is silenced  
In the stillness of the grave.

Electa:

One by one, we miss the faces  
Of the friends we once possessed;  
One by one, their names are graven  
"Ceased to labor" - "Home" - "At rest."

Treasurer:

I like to think the clouds are God's curtains -
The blue and white loveliness  
With which He drapes His heavenly home -  
That human eyes be not blinded  
By the beauties within.

Organist:

Sometimes when the noonday sun  
Gives the clouds unearthly radiance,  
It seems like angel fingers, pushing back  
The swaying curtains of the sky,  
That loved ones may look on us once more  
Through God's curtains.

Warder:

They never quite leave us,  
Our friends who have passed  
Through the gateway eternal  
To the sunlight above.

A thousand sweet memories  
Are holding them fast  
To the place they blessed  
By their presence and love.

Worthy Matron: let us unite in prayer. (Officers form circle around Altar like for initiation)

Our Father and our God, we come  
in thankfulness and prayer;  
for all the blessings of this life  
And thy loving care.  
We ask Thee to comfort and bless the sorrowing;  
draw them to Thee by Thy infinite love.  
Grant that all our acts and thoughts may be inspired  
by Thee. May we follow the light of our Star  
in the East until we, too, lay down the burdens of life,  
when unto us may be given entrance into the glories of that  
city not made with hands. Amen.

("Bless be the Tie" followed by "Nearer My God to Thee" and Taps.)