

Sunset's Gateway.

Characters-

Grand Matron, Grand Patron, North, South, East, West, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, Chaplain, Marshal.

Synopsis-

Four characters symbolizing the four points of the compass take designated positions around the altar. Each recites an appropriate verse and makes an offering. The five Star Points then make an offering, take designated positions in a tableau setting and recite appropriate verses. They are followed by the Grand Patron and the Chaplain, and music of a vocal nature. At proper intervals throughout the action the names of various Jurisdictions or of deceased members are called.

Time-

Twenty-five minutes.

Costumes-

White

Properties-

Altar, bible, five evergreen loops, five colored cords tied in a bow knot with long ends- upon which are tassels. These could be pillow cords. Five bell Japanese gong, four large funeral wreaths ornamented with a few flowers, copy of song "Face to Face".

Scene-

Chapter Room or hall- altar set with bible, decorated with five evergreen loops arranged so that the ends where caught will be opposite the Star Points; Star Point chairs in usual position; five-bell Japanese gong at Sentinel's station. Grand Matron and Grand Patron in the East until Chapter is called up when Grand Patron takes position on east of altar. All other officers at their usual stations. Very low lights or spot.

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The altar already set in Chapter Room bearing Bible, should be decorated with five evergreen loops, arranged so that the parts where caught will be opposite the Star Points.

The Organist should open up with a slow solemn march for the Marshal's movements as she marches around distributing five colored cords to the Star Points seated in their respective stations. (These cords should correspond in color to the points as represented by the Star Points- should be tied in bow knots with long ends upon which are tassels- these could be pillow cords).

After the Marshal has distributed the cords to the Star Points and resumed her station- the Sentinel strikes ten sonorous strokes on a five-bell Japanese gong specially provided for this purpose. A proper interval should be allowed between each stroke in order to obtain the tolling effect.

Grand Matron- Calls up the Chapter.

The Chaplain and Marshal start from their stations simultaneously, march down sides of hall to the west, taking positions one on each side of Esther's chair, just west of the chair.

The lights should be lowered to a very low point. It would be preferable if lights are used at this time to use only a strong spot light.

Grand Patron- Takes position on east of altar.

Organist now plays a slow march. Four individuals symbolizing the four points of the compass, North, South, East and West, enter from ante-room and march to positions around altar as per diagram. These individuals carry large funeral wreaths, preferably ornamented with a few flowers.

Grand Matron-

Throughout this life with all of its joys, there comes a measure of sadness. Silent as the dawn, mysterious as the night

yet, certain as Truth the messenger comes, and whether from the North, the South, from the East or from the West, we, none of us can tell-- yet, one by one our friends are drifting over the breast of the silent sea, and one by one we too, shall cross the river to "That City not made by hands".

Difford
X North-

Advances to altar- sets her wreath in upright slanting position against altar- steps back a few feet and repeats the following verse:-

Yea, from the North I come--

X
Blindfolded and alone I stand,
With unknown thresholds on each hand;
The darkness deepens as I grope,
Afraid to fear, afraid to hope:
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go,
That doors are opened, ways are made,
Burdens are lifted or are laid,
By some great law unseen and still,
Unfathomed purpose to fulfill,
"Not as I will".

(Names of States or Jurisdictions represented by North are now repeated very slowly with a proper interval between each name to get the effect.)

Miss Jackson
North then returns to her position.

South-

Advances to altar- sets her wreath in upright slanting position against altar- steps back a few feet and repeats the following verse:-

Yea, from the South I come--

Blindfolded and alone I wait;
Loss seems too bitter, gain too late;
Too heavy burdens in the load
And too few helpers on the road;
And joy is weak and grief is strong,
And years and days so long, so long;
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go,
That I am glad the good and ill
By changeless law are ordered still,
"Not as I will".

(Names of States or Jurisdictions represented by South are now repeated very slowly with a proper interval between each name to get the effect.)

South then returns to her position.

Chrysanthemum
East-

Advances to altar- sets her wreath in upright slanting position against altar- steps back a few feet and repeats the following verse:-

Yea, from the East I come--

"Not as I will"; the sound grows sweet
Each time my lips the words repeat.
"Not as I will"; the darkness feels
More safe than light when this thought steals
Like whispered voice to calm and bless
All unrest and all loneliness.
"Not as I will", because the One
Who loved us first and best has gone
Before us on the road, and still
For us must all his love fulfill,
"Not as we will".

(Names of States or Jurisdictions represented by East are now repeated very slowly with a proper interval between each name to get the effect.)

Q new
East then returns to her position.

West-

Advances to altar- sets her wreath in upright slanting position against altar- steps back a few feet and repeats the following verse:-

Yea, from the West I come--

There weary travellers lay their burdens down,
Nor ever rise to take them up with morn;
There saint and sinner rest, the sage, the clown;
There hushed are voice of praise and voice of scorn.

Down corridors that never sound with din,
Where enter winds that from all singing cease,
An angel moves; if asked by venturers in
What sought the sleepers there, she answers, "Peace".

(Names of States or Jurisdictions represented by West are now repeated very slowly with a proper interval between each name to get the effect.)

West then returns to her position.

Organist will now render some soft slow music. *(Organist)*

Hazel Brew
Adah-

Advances to altar and fastens on her bow- cord and tassel at a point where the evergreen loops join, nearest to her, and then kneels.

Ruth- Advances to altar and does likewise.
Esther- Advances to altar and does likewise.
Martha- Advances to altar and does likewise.
Electa- Advances to altar and does likewise.

(Music ceases)

Hazel Dew
Adah- (Kneeling) recites the following verse. The other
four Points will join in on the final line of "Thy will be done".

We see not, know not; all our way
Is night, with Thee alone is day:
From out the torrent's trouble drift,
Above the storm our prayers we lift,
Thy will be done!

Ferguson
Ruth- (Kneeling) recites the following verse. The other
four Points will join in on the final line of "Thy will be done".

The flesh may fail, the heart may faint,
But who are we to make complaint,
Or dare to plead, in times like these,
The weakness of our love of ease?
Thy will be done!

Elston
Esther- (Kneeling) recites the following verse. The other
four Points will join in on the final line of "Whose will be done".

We take with solemn thankfulness
Our burden up, nor ask it less,
And count it joy that even we
May suffer, serve, or wait for Thee,
Whose will be done!

with Smith
Martha- (Kneeling) recites the following verse. The other
four Points will join in on the final line of "Thy will be done".

And if, in our unworthiness,
Thy sacrificial wine we press:
If from Thy ordeal's heated bars
Our feet are seamed with crimson scars,
Thy will be done!

John Emerson
Electa- (Kneeling) recites the following verse. The other
four Points will join in on the final line of "Thy will be done".

Strike, Thou the Master, we, THY keys,
The anthem of the destinies!
The minor of Thy loftier strain
Our hearts shall breathe the old refrain,
Thy will be done!

W. H. H. H.
Grand Patron-
following:-

Standing on east side of altar- recites the

Tonight as I sat at my window
While the west was all agleam
With that strange and wonderful splendor
That is fleeting as a dream,
I thought that the hands of angels
Had flung Heaven's gateways wide,
And I caught some glimpse of the glory
From the hills on the other side.

Is it not a comforting fancy,
This sunset thought of mine,
That always the gates of Heaven
Swing open at day's decline--
That those whose work is all ended
From our earthly woes and ills
May pass to the peace and gladness
That crown the beautiful hills?

Perhaps while I sat there dreaming
Of the gateway in the west
Some weary ones went homeward
To a long and endless rest--
Went in through the sunset gateway
To the city paved with gold,
To dwell in the hills of Heaven,
And be no longer old!

The five Star Points who have been kneeling will now rise, retire from the altar a proper distance and form a circle which will include North, South, East, West, Marshal and Grand Patron. During the foregoing action the Chaplain and Marshal have been standing, one on each side of Esther's chair. As the Marshal advances to join the circle, the Chaplain will advance to the altar and kneel.

The names of the deceased in the Jurisdiction of
----- are now called.

us Oliver
Chaplain-

Gives Prayer-

O Thou Whose thoughts are higher than our thoughts, and Whose ways are past finding out, we ask of Thee light and faith. We have followed nature through another cycle of life, and all the way we have walked by sight. From the first sign of grass and flowers; from the blade to the full corn in the ear; from the earliest herald of spring to the full notes of the feathered orchestra, with senses charmed we have been led from promise to fruition. Every day has disclosed some new resource of a power of life that seems exhaustless.

But the cycle is ended. There is no further form or comeliness. The grass is withered, the flower faded; the sweet-voiced birds are gone, and all about us are somberness and silence and the reign of death. If we go on, it must be by faith. We do not doubt that other flowers will bloom, that other birds will sing, but are those we loved gone forever? Has life no quality that gives it permanence? Must it not only go before, but give place as well? Is life always at the cost of life?

We know they did not fail, for we can never forget the beauty or the song, but they seemed worthy to bloom and sing forever! We would have it so! For we stand within the same order, and we all do fade as the leaf. Lord, increase our faith! Amen.

Response- So may it ever be.

Solo- Face to Face (one verse)

Chaplain- (Rises)

Lights are turned on. Short march to enable Marshal to seat the officers.

In seating the officers as shown by diagrams No. 4 and No. 5 the Marshal picks up the Grand Patron, South, West, North, East and Chaplain. As she passes across East in diagram No. 5 the Chaplain will drop off at her station. As the Marshal passes along the south side of hall- South, West, North and East will drop off and take seats waiting for them. She then continues to the East- bows to the Grand Patron and marches across to her station.