

## THE LIGHTED LANTERNS

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Worthy Matron's welcome to guests:

We are very happy to have so many guests with us this evening. The Order of the Eastern Star is one of the world's greatest organizations and we are all very proud to be called a part of it. We meet in our Chapter rooms from time to time and take care of our official business. We extend greetings to our friends, and sympathy to those who are in sorrow or distressed. The Chapters are kept alive and growing by those who are ready and willing to take the time and put forth the effort to carry on it's work. We always miss those who are absent, but the work must go on by the ones who are there. We realize just how important would have been their presence with us, and we wonder if they know how much they are needed in the work of our Order. In the darkness of the night, a small light may be sufficient to guide the wanderer on the right path. If that light were not shining through the darkness, someone would doubtless lose his way. So our Chapter rooms are kept aglow by those who are present with us, but we need the light that shines from the face of every member to make our meetings a success. May we realize just how necessary our presence may be in promoting the principles of Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness.

The room should be darkened. The Associate Matron approaches a position west of Altar. She carries a lighted lantern. These lanterns may be the old fashioned oil ones, or the small ones purchased at gift shops.

Associate Matron speaks:

In the darkness of the night, we are reminded of the words of the Scripture, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good work, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." May the light of my little lantern keep our Chapter aglow through the years which are to come that I may do my part in the interest of Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness. Others have also lighted the way, giving light where there was darkness.

The light from every deed that grows  
Throws out it's light, and no one knows  
How far this little light may shine,  
When other lights are used with mine;  
If you have other lights to give,  
Just let them shine that all may live  
And be to every one so true,  
In all we say, and all we do.

Star points, with lighted lanterns, approach the Altar and form a straight line from Altar east, just south of imaginary line extending from Altar to dais. When in position, Star points face north and speaks as follows:

Adah speaks:

We are the five Star points who have tried to serve faithfully in the work of our Order. If we are absent, some other light must shine in our place that the lights from our five points will always be burning.

My little light shines out so bright,  
With every ray of azure blue,  
And tells to all the busy world,  
That we will always be found true. -

Ruth speaks:

My light that shines out in the night,  
And always sheds a golden hue,  
Will guide our footsteps on our way,  
And give us strength our whole life through.

Esther speaks:

My light is always clear to see,  
For it is such a radiant white;  
It guides the wanderer on his way,  
And drives the gloom from darkest night.

Martha speaks:

My light is beautiful to see,  
And always shows the living green;  
It gives us hope for every day,  
And faith to trust in things unseen.

Electa speaks:

My light shines out with brilliant red,  
And always tries the world to show,  
That charity and truth prevails,  
With love that all the world should know.

Five members with unlighted lanterns approach the Altar, and take positions on north just opposite the Star points.

One of the five speaks:

We come with our lanterns all darkened,  
With no light from them to appear,  
For we are the members that are absent,  
Each meeting throughout every year;  
We know that we have not been helpers,  
With the work of the Chapter each day,  
And for this we have just stumbled onward,  
Without any light on our way;  
So won't you please light our lanterns,  
So we can also be true,  
And each day we'll try to do better,  
With our presence, and our service too.

Associate Matron speaks:

Our Star points will now light your lanterns,  
So they may shine out on your way,  
And give to us the assurance,  
Of your presence and help every day.

Each Star point lights the lantern of the member opposite her, after which soloist sings the following song:

Tune: "Living For Jesus."

Lanterns will greet you and welcome you too,  
Lanterns will guide you in work that you do;  
They will be faithful to work every day,  
Letting their light shine brightly on our way.

Chorus:

We now have lighted lanterns  
To guide us on our way;  
We will not be found wanting,  
In our task for each day;  
We'll strive to please each other,  
And please our Chapter too,  
We give our light to shine out bright,  
To serve our whole life through.

If you have lanterns to shine on your way,  
You need not worry for guidance each day;  
Carry your lanterns and they will give cheer,  
And light your pathway each day of the year.

Chorus:

At close of song, Star points and members march east, Star points turning south and west, and members north and west, and resume seats or stations.

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