

LIFE'S GARDEN

Service For Preparing Star Points For Initiation.

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Marshal rises and marches to a point between the dais and the Altar, bows, and Star points rise, and form semi-circle around Altar. The Marshal carries basket with appropriate flowers. The Star points carry empty baskets. As soon as Star points are in position, the Marshal steps forward.

Marshal:

Life is God's great garden, we should always plant with care,
And see that only flowers of the choicest kind are there,
And though we find some blooming in a treasured garden plot,
There are others that are growing in a much secluded spot;
For with God we are as flowers, and not all are meant for show,
But each one in our small corner, He intends for us to grow.

For flowers can bring comfort, and can soothe the weary way,
They can bring a bit of sunshine to a cloudy, dreary day;
They can give the sweetest message in a language all their own,
And can be a source of comfort when we find ourselves alone,
So these flowers bring a message as if coming from afar,
Of joy, and peace, and comfort, to our own dear Eastern Star.

To Adah:

The dainty little violet that adorns the lonely hills,
Grows out among the grasses, and beside the quiet rills,
But its beauty is not wasted, nor its fragrance on the air,
For it brings to us a message of a daughter's loving care,
For Adah was so faithful, and was to her vow so true,
That here we find fidelity, in the violet's dainty blue.

To Ruth:

There's a flower that is noted for it's lovely golden hue,
It is growing in our garden, and deserves some notice, too,
It reminds us of that story that brings us words of truth,
In the love and the devotion, of the faithful widow, Ruth,
And to us, whatever station in this garden we entwine,
We will always look with reverence on the humble jessamine.

To Esther:

In our garden that's treasured, we will find the lily white,
It is there just to remind us of a Queen who did the right,
For to Esther it meant courage to uphold her captive race,
And true to a wife's devotion, she risked life the King to face,
She was loyal to her kindred, and she proved her friendship true,
By having faith and honor in the task she dared to do.

To Martha:

Out in some shaded corner, we will find the lacy fern,
It mingles with all flowers, as we to it's foliage turn;
For by it we are reminded, death may come at any time,
And we should know Christ's message, which to Martha was sublime,
For He spoke in words of comfort, as He to this sister gave,
That message of assurance of a life beyond the grave.

To Electa:

The flower that's so lovely, and is treasured where it grows,
And ranks first in our garden, is the sweetly scented rose;
It's lovely red reminds us that endurance must be ours,
The mother love it brings us, makes it choicest of all flowers,
For Electa took the cross of Christ and pressed it to her breast,
And in her fervent spirit, she dared leave to God the rest.

Marshal stands in front of each Star point as she addresses her, and at the close of each message, presents the flowers. After flowers are presented she returns to former position between dais and Altar.

Marshal:

Sisters, take these little flowers, and plant them all with care,
And keep watch of your garden, that no weeds may enter there,
For we must have all colors, and they must their fragrance shed,
We must have the blue and yellow, the white and green and red,
They must teach us to be loyal, to be constant, to be true,
They must teach us to put truth and love in every thing we do,
If we care for these flowers, and are faithful in the least,
We will always be well guided by that Star that lights the East.

Marshal bows and all return to stations.

March for Star points in forming semicircle, if desired.

When Star points rise, Marshal turns, faces south, marches to a point on line south of Stations of Adah and Ruth, turns west, observing square corners, marches west until she passes Ruth's station, turns north, circles Esther's station, with station on left, marches to a point on line north of stations of Martha and Electa, turns east, marches east until she passes Electa's station, enters labyrinth between Electa and Altar.

In line of march, Adah follows Marshal in passing, Ruth follows Adah, Esther follows Ruth etc.

After entering labyrinth, semicircle is formed west of Altar.

Marshal steps back to former position before speaking.

After presenting flowers, Marshal passes back of semicircle to position east of Altar.

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