

THE BROKEN WHEEL
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Lights may be lowered for service if desired.

Worthy Matron speaks:

We would pause for a few moments in the midst of our deliberations to remember with loving hearts our departed ones. As we do so, we extend our sympathy to those who mourn, and trust that they may be given the assurance that in the course of life, all will be well. We do not want to make others sorrowful, but to keep memory sacred, and to emulate their virtues, remembering that God sends the shadows that the soul may be made more glorious. Death is as a broken wheel standing at the close of a period of time, it's strength and usefulness gone. It has ceased to turn with the toils of the day, and can no longer lend it's assistance to the comforts of those who serve. In the springtime of life, all is strength and endurance; the summer time brings the burden of toil and the consciousness of the tasks before us; autumn comes with it's harvest and the gathering in of the fruits of our toil; in winter the wheel moves on, slower and less firm and secure. The year closes, the wheel of time crumbles, crushed and broken. In this hour we look for strength to Him who said, "I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also".

Member or officer enters bearing pillow or basket of flowers. She approaches the East, following dotted line Fig. 1, turns west and Worthy Matron speaks:

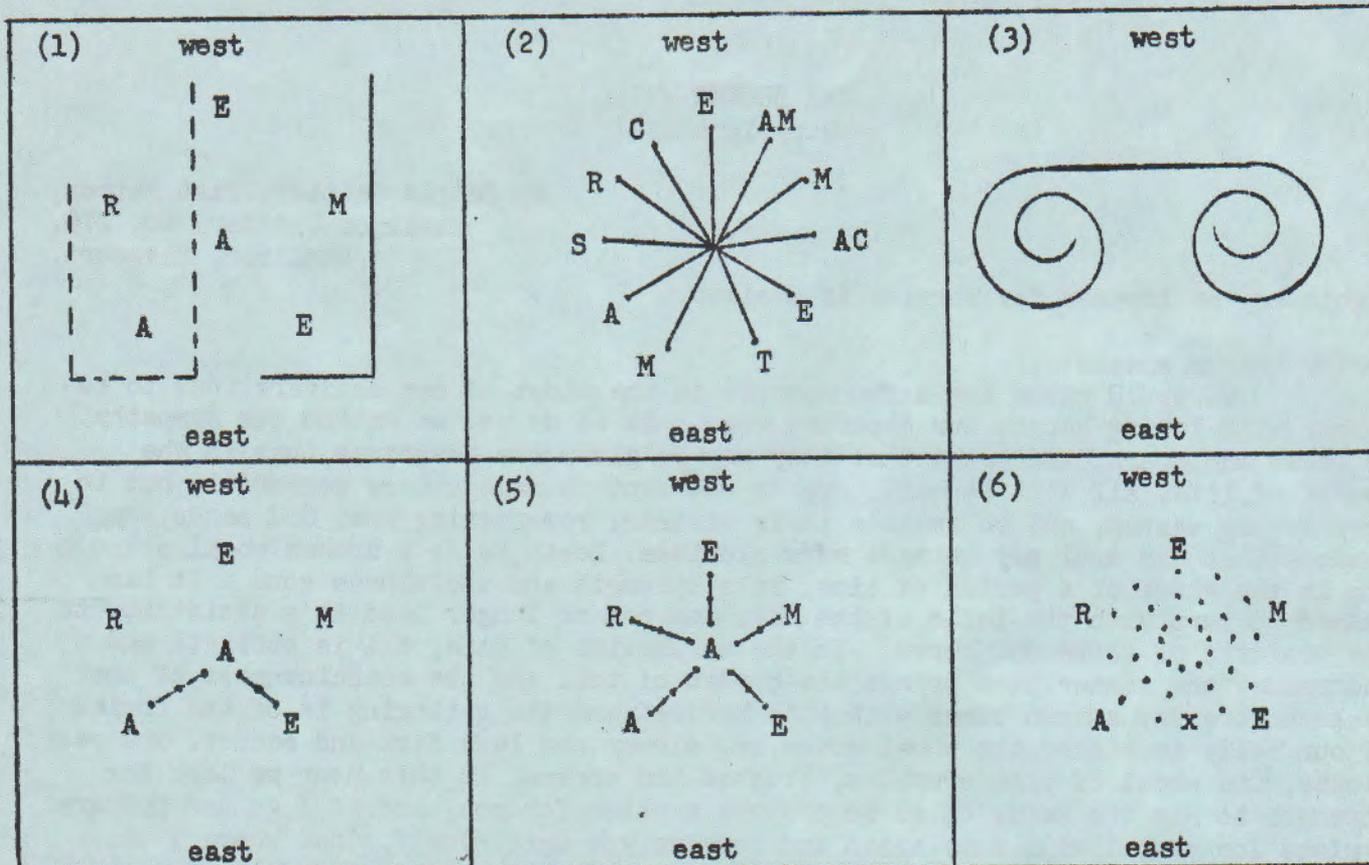
In memory of our members who have recently passed to the Great Beyond, we place these flowers. We would keep sacred their memory because of the fellowship which we have enjoyed together while they were on earth, but we must not grieve for "God shall wipe all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor suffering".

Chaplain passes to Altar outside of labyrinth on the north, and as she does so, the one with flowers places them at foot of dais and passes west outside of labyrinth.

Prayer:

Dear Father, help us to understand the way of life as revealed to us in mind of Christ Jesus. As we come in memory of those who have departed, may we draw very near to those who sorrow because of the loss of loved ones. Give to those who grieve, sufficient strength and that peace that passeth all understanding. Bless and give us grace that we may be guided to Thy Heavenly Kingdom. We ask it in the name of our Redeemer. Amen.

If officers only are used in forming wheel, it may be formed as follows: Fig. 2, Secretary, Marshal, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Conductress, Associate Matron, Martha, Associate Conductress, Electa, and Treasurer form circle around Altar or between Altar and dais, taking positions as in Fig. 2. The first six officers named are provided with green crepe paper or ribbon streamers, long enough to reach across inside of labyrinth. For ease in handling, streamers should be rolled as in Fig. 3.



As appropriate song is sung, the officers with streamers hand one end to officer opposite, Secretary to Asso. Matron, Adah to Martha, Marshal to Asso. Conductress, Ruth to Electa, and Conductress to Treasurer. Esther places end of her streamer so it will hang over front of Altar to represent broken wheel, or if the formation is made between Altar and dais, it will hang over the other ribbons to represent broken wheel. In forming the wheel, opposite officers step toward the center to present and receive ribbons, after which they step back to position, unrolling the ribbons as they do so. The wheel may be as large as may be conveniently formed, according to the size of ribbon used. If given in larger Chapters, as many as may be desired may be used in forming wheel, lines entering one at a time from outer door.

As each line takes position, Worthy Matron (or Reader) speaks as follows:

Adah was true to her convictions of right and duty. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God".

Solist sings: "I Would Be True".

Electa's spoke is formed from opposite side. As soon as formed, reader or Worthy Matron speaks:

Electa was an example of charity and hospitality, and in face of persecution, she was true to the Christian faith. In our Holy Bible, we find these words: "Let us love one another, for love is of God; and every one that loveth is borne of God, and knoweth God".

Solist sings: "More Love to Thee".

Ruth's spoke is next formed. As soon as formed, reader or Worthy Matron speaks:

Ruth was obedient to the demands of honor and justice in all conditions of life. Jesus said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world".

Solist sings: "Abide With Me".

Martha's spoke is next formed, Fig. 5. As soon as formed, reader speaks:

Martha's trustful faith helped her to look forward with faith to eternal life, and to have assurance in the words of Jesus when He said, "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. Believeth thou this?"

Soloist sings: - "My Faith Looks up to Thee."

Esther's spoke is next formed, Fig. 5. As soon as formed, reader speaks:

Esther risked life and crown to save her people from death. She has given us the great lesson of loyalty. Jesus said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Soloist sings: - "Just For Today."

Other songs may be used if desired.

As soon as Star point lines are formed, Fig. 5, other members may enter with lines on north and south of labyrinth, forming extra spokes in the wheel, as indicated in Fig. 6, and these may be followed by other members dressed in black who circle the wheel to form the tire, leaving out the broken space as indicated at "X" in Fig. 6.

When all are in position, Worthy Matron speaks:

Death comes so swiftly through the night,
On wings that unfurl in their flight,
Yet when we see it's darkened face
We look beyond and catch a trace
Of hope, which to us seems to say,
Beyond we'll find a brighter day.

We would not mourn for those who've gone,
Because we know they've just passed on
To that celestial home on high
Where we shall join them bye and bye;
They have just crossed the other shore,
To be with Him forever more.

Soloist sings: - "The Broken Threads of Life." Other song may be used.

After song, soft music continues as officers and members in wheel retrace steps to outer door or former positions.

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