

THE HOUR OF REMEMBRANCE
A Memorial Service

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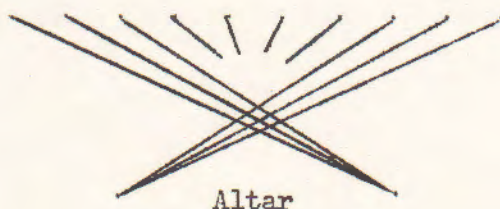
Lights are lowered.

Worthy Matron: - During the past year, some of our loved ones have been called to their eternal rest, and we pause to dedicate this hour to their memory. As we do so, we extend sympathy to all who mourn, and in our consciousness comes the blessed assurance that at life's close, all will be well. The object of this service is not to make us sorrowful, but rather to commemorate the virtues exemplified in the lives of our departed ones. We know that after the setting of the sun, comes another sunrise in the land eternal. The officers will retire, and prepare for the memorial service.

While officers are preparing for service, soloist sings:

Tune: - "One Sweetly Solemn Thought".

At close of song, Chaplain and Martha enter, one from outer door, and one from door of preparation room. They pass diagonally to Altar, very slowly. Chaplain carries open Bible, and Martha carries broken column. As soon as they are in position west of Altar, other officers enter and form line back of Esther's station as follows: - Secretary, Adah, Marshal, Ruth, Conductress, Esther, Associate Conductress, Associate Matron, Treasurer, and Electa, with Secretary to north of line. Secretary, Marshal, and Treasurer carry lighted candles; Adah, Ruth, Esther, and Electa carry flowers appropriate to their stations; and Associate Matron carries fern leaves. They march to position around Altar as follows: Secretary leads, going diagonally to point south of Altar, then to position in front of Altar. Electa starts immediately after Secretary, going diagonally to north of Altar, then to position. Adah starts immediately after Electa, going to south of Altar, then to position, other officers following alternately, crossing west of Altar marching and taking positions to form pentagon as follows:



Altar

East

Con. . Esther . Asso. Con.

Ruth . . Asso. M.

Marshal . . Treas.

Adah . . Electa

Secy.

East

As soon as officers are in position, Conductress and Associate Conductress drape Altar. They step back to position, and Chaplain places Bible on the Altar. Martha places broken column on Altar, and speaks:

Death is something which we cannot understand, and yet it comes. Some are called in the sunrise of youth, when life is as a budded flower. Some are called in the morning of life when before them is a full day of joy and happiness. Some are called in the noonday, when life for them is an experience of riches in success and devotion, and it comes to others as the sun sinks on the western slope, when weary in

spirit, they await the call. Our hearts go out to those who mourn. Martha has given us the faith that joy will come in the morning.

Martha speaks to Adah:- Sister Adah, Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God". May this promise keep you true to the convictions of right and duty.

Adah places her flowers on Altar.

Martha speaks to Ruth:- Sister Ruth, our Savior said, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted;" and He also said, "I will never leave thee. Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." May these words help you to be obedient to the demands of honor and justice in all conditions of life.

Ruth places her flowers on Altar

Martha speaks to Esther:- Sister Esther, we find this promise in God's Holy Word, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." May these words bring you joy, for you risked your life to save your people from death.

Esther places her flowers on Altar.

Martha speaks to Electa:- Sister Electa, in our Holy Bible we find these words, "Let us love one another, for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." Let us love one another that we may be ever loyal to the Christian faith.

Electa places her flowers on Altar.

Martha speaks to Associate Matron:- My sister, standing beside the broken column, we may, with Martha's trustful faith, look beyond the sunset to the dawn of a celestial day. We are assured that we shall meet our loved ones again for Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (Associate Matron gives her fern leaves to Martha) We accept your tribute because it is a symbol of Martha's trustful faith and hope of immortality.

Martha gathers the flowers from the Altar, and holding them with the fern leaves continues speaking, after which she places flowers on Altar:

A tribute is a lovely thing
To give in flowers like these,
They help to heal the wounded heart,
And bring comfort and ease.

And if our column breaks in youth,
Or in the noontide glare,
May we feel it's just going home
To be with loved ones there.

To live where flowers always bloom,
At home in that fair land,
Sometime, someday when life is done,
We'll know and understand.

Soloist sings:- Tune: "Going Home." (Other song may be used)

At beginning of song, Martha and Chaplain kneel together at Altar, and officers form cross as follows:

Electa steps to position between Secretary and Altar. Adah with Marshal south of Altar. Associate Matron, with Treasurer north of Altar. The other officers form straight line west of Altar, thus:

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East

At close of song, Worthy Matron speaks:

Beyond the evening twilight
We see a land so fair,
Its just beyond the river,
And loved ones wait us there.

The soft glow of our candles
Remind us of our loss,
And just within the shadows
We see our Savior's cross.

We hear again His message,
So blessed to receive,
That with Him we'll live always,
If we will just believe.

There we shall need no candles,
For in that land of love,
The radiance of His presence
Will light that home above.

Prayer by Chaplain:-

Our Heavenly Father, Thou who art a Friend of every sorrowing heart, we come to Thee in our weakness, asking for strength and guidance. We are grateful to Thee for Thy never failing love, and pray that we may find comfort in the rich promises of Thy grace. We thank Thee for the lives of the loved ones who walked with us for awhile, and who have passed to the Great Beyond to await our coming. Give us the love that made them trustful and strong, and the faith that made them steadfast and true. Grant that their goodness of heart may be reflected in our lives to Thy glory, and may we have the peace that passeth all understanding. We ask it in the name of our Lord, who is our great Friend and Comforter.

Amen.

As soft music of "Going Home" continues, officers return to stations.

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