

IT IS LOVE'S GIFT
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,
Hamilton, Missouri.

Guests are introduced and welcomed by Worthy Matron as follows:

We take much pride in bringing to you a special message from this Chapter. Your faithful service through the years has won for you much honor and esteem, and any words which we may say seem very inadequate to express to you our feelings in regard to all the service which you have so willingly given to this Chapter.

We realize that you have found much enjoyment and satisfaction in service, and that you will have many happy memories when you think of the associations of the past, but the enjoyment which has been yours does not satisfy the members of this Chapter, for we must express to you in some way our thanks and appreciation, and we want it to be something that will speak louder than words.

The Order of the Eastern Star is a wonderful organization, giving to us the opportunity of friendship and service, and when these two are combined it is sure to bring much happiness. We know that you have enjoyed your work in our Order, and that you have made many friends while serving, and because of this the work of your Chapter has grown very dear to your heart. It would be impossible for us to repay you for what you have done, but we do want to show you some of the love and the appreciation which may be found in the hearts of the members of this Chapter.

The Marshal escorts the guests by way of the East to position in semicircle west of Altar where chairs may be provided for them. After they are seated, Marshal returns to her station.

Worthy Matron to Marshal:

Dear Marshal, go into the garden and fence in the flowers with love.
So they may have plenty of sunshine, and the gentle rains from above;
For they are giving their beauty, and their fragrance is filling the air,
So let us protect them and keep them, so we may their loveliness share.

Marshal takes position a few steps south of line between dais and Altar, and speaks:

I'll stand to the east of our garden, and direct the soft rays of the sun,
And see that it shines on each flower, until it's labors are done;
For God has need of each flower to drive away sorrow and care;
He sends the rain and the sunshine, and sees that each plant has it's share.

Associate Conductress takes position in front of her station, and speaks:

I'll stand to the north of our garden, and shield it from cold winds each day,
And keep the flowers from freezing as they blossom and bloom on our way;
For flowers have need of the sunshine if we want them to blossom each year,
And they must be tended and cared for, if they give of their beauty and cheer.

Conductress takes position in front of her station, and speaks:

I'll stand to the south of our garden and protect it from hot winds that blow,
For flowers must have gentle breezes if we want them to blossom and grow;
We have much need of the flowers for they bring us comfort each day;
We must see that they are protected to blossom along our pathway.

Associate Matron takes position a few steps north of line between dais and Altar,
and opposite Marshal, and speaks:

I have stood to the west of our garden, and watched the flowers each day;
Some grow in secluded places, others grow very close to the way;
But the ones which have been almost hidden are just as dear to our hearts,
For they surely grow for a purpose, and in service are doing their part;
So if anyone in this garden has a gift that they will gladly share,
Won't you bring it that we may together show to others that we really care.

Secretary takes position south of Marshal, and east of Conductress, and speaks:

I find in my part of the garden a gift I will so gladly share,
For these good friends who have served us, and have lessened our sorrow
and care.

Treasurer takes position on line north of Associate Matron, and east of Associate
Conductress, and speaks:

I bring my gift to you gladly, for the tribute so rightfully earned;
For the many things they have taught us, and the lessons patiently learned.

Adah takes position west of Secretary, and speaks:

Through years past they have been faithful, and have been so true to each vow;
It is right that we take time to honor, and pay a just tribute now.

Chaplain takes position west of Treasurer, and speaks:

Our records show they've been loyal, and patient and loving each day,
So we must bring our gifts to them, as they pass along on life's way.

Ruth takes position west of Adah, and speaks:

We find they've been true to our Order, giving time, and much service too;
And with love, we so gladly give them, all things which to them are now due.

Electa takes position west of Chaplain, and speaks:

They not only have given their service, but their love and their loyalty too,
They have had much charity for others, so to them all honor is due.

Esther takes position between Ruth and Conductress, and speaks:

The fairest flowers in our garden are blooming for them every day,
So let's scatter love with the sunshine as they now pass by on our way.

Martha takes position between Electa and Associate Conductress, and speaks:

They have had the faith that is trustful, they have had much courage and love;
They have had a hope in the future, and promise of blessings above.

Officers may be provided with flowers, candles, ribbons, or gifts. Pins or Bibles may also be presented. Marshal collects gifts from officers, and presents them to guests as follows:

From our garden we bring our gifts to you,
For you have earned them, every one;
And we will be true to you always,
From the dawn 'til the set of the sun;
For we know you have always been faithful,
And have served us well through the years,
So we bring you our gifts, and our treasures,
Our thanks, our appreciation, and our cheers.

After gifts are presented, soloist sings:

Tune: "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen".

We're glad you can be here tonight,
That we may give our praise to you;
And welcome you with words of cheer,
As we bring gifts of love to you;
Through years gone by you gave your best;
You've given time and service too;
You well deserve the praise we give,
As we bring all our thanks to you.

Chorus: Oh, we will give to you our all,
Because much praise to you is due;
And when the evening shadows fall,
We still will love and honor you.

We want you to have lots of joy,
As you now travel on your way;
We want the skies to be so blue,
With lots of sunshine every day;
But if the clouds should ever come,
We're sure the sun will soon shine through;
For we will chase the clouds away,
From friends who are as true as you.

At close of song, officers return to stations, and guests are escorted to their seats or to the East.

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