

CEREMONIES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

EASTER SERVICE

During the Opening and first part of the meeting, Bethel Officers assume their stations. When it is time for the ceremony, Officers will retire from room. Guide and Marshal pick up Officers on each side by marching through Messengers' semicircle, and then to East Line, turning north and south, to sidelines, marching out of room. Officers re-enter Bethel Room singing "The Old Rugged Cross." The Honored Queen and the Guide lead off going to opposite sides of Guide and Marshal's stations and fifth Messenger's Chair, forming a single line in the semicircle. Honored Queen, leading line continues east and Guide remains standing in front of Cross, which has been placed just west of Altar. Other Officers form Cross, entering line alternately. To form arms of Cross, Senior Princess turns left at Fifth Messenger's station, followed by Inner Guard and Senior Custodian; Junior Princess turns right, followed by Outer Guard and Junior Custodian. When Officers are in position, Honored Queen proceeds with Ceremony.

HONORED QUEEN: Today in our world of hurry and bustle, of speed and noise, of hope and despair, the Cross of Jesus Christ seems very far away. Easter is the season in which we draw again to the Cross and remember especially the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord. This evening has been set aside in order that we, in our Bethel, might turn again to the Cross. Let us listen while our Daughters tell the story of Easter.

Each Daughter, as her turn comes waits until preceding Daughter is on sideline walking to station, then steps up to the Cross, tells her story, puts white flower in Cross, steps to side, walks to Altar Line, turns, walks to sideline and hence to station. Daughters take alternate sides right or left according to plates.

GUIDE: Almost two hundred years ago there lived in Galilee a man whose name was Jesus. He was a meek and humble man who knew no sin. He went about healing the sick and performing miracles. He taught the people of the love of God and claimed to be his son.

MARSHAL: The church leaders and many other people openly hated Jesus, and many times sought to kill him. He was rejected by his own townspeople. But a great crowd of people did follow Him, and obeyed His teachings, because they believed He had the words of eternal life

FIRST MESSENGER: On the first day of unleavened bread, Jesus gathered with the Disciples in an upper room to celebrate the Passover. When He had given thanks He took the bread and wine and blessed them and gave them to his Disciples. Then He said "one of you will betray me."

THIRD MESSENGER: After they had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives and into the Garden of Gethsemane. While Jesus prayed there, Judas (one of the twelve), came with a great crowd of soldiers and priests. He approached Jesus and kissed Him, thereby betraying the Lord.

SECOND MESSENGER: Straightaway in the morning, the Council of Scribes and Elders was held. They declared Jesus was guilty, so He was taken to Pontius Pilate for trial. Pilate decided Jesus should be whipped and then released, but the crowds continued to cry out, "Crucify him." So Pilate delivered Jesus into their hands that they might crucify Him.

FOURTH MESSENGER: (Placing a crown of thorns on Cross, not a flower.) The soldiers took Him away and placed a cloak of purple upon His shoulders and a crown of thorns on His head, and they mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews." Then they led him away to be crucified.

FIFTH MESSENGER: They brought Him to a place called Golgotha, which means "the place of a skull" and here they crucified him together with two thieves, one on his right, one on his left. There hanging from the Cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

LIBRARIAN: Even then they continued to mock him, saying "If thou be King of the Jews, save thyself," and they placed a sign above his head which read "King of Jews."

RECORDER: Suddenly darkness came upon the earth, and after the third hour Jesus cried aloud, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Thinking He was thirsty, they gave him vinegar to drink. Then Jesus cried, "It is finished; Father into Thy hands I commend my spirit." And He gave up the ghost.

MUSICIAN: In the evening a rich man called Joseph of Arimethea came and took the body of Jesus from the Cross and with Nicodemus, wrapped it in linen with myrth and spices and placed it in a sepulchre. They rested the next day as it was the Sabbath.

TREASURER: Early on the first day of the week the women came to the tomb, bringing spices and ointments, but they found the stone rolled away and the body of Jesus gone.

SENIOR CUSTODIAN: And an angel appeared to them saying, “Why seek ye Jesus here? He is risen.” So they returned and told these things to the Disciples. The Disciples, however, would not believe and ran to see for themselves. They found indeed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Custodians walk directly to their stations. Junior Custodian waits until Senior Custodian reaches her station before she steps up. Similarly the Princesses later.

JUNIOR CUSTODIAN: In the next forty days before His ascension, Jesus appeared to them in many ways. To Thomas, who would not believe until he saw the wounds, Jesus said, “Because ye have seen me ye have believed. Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.”

Last five Officers: Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Chaplain, and Princesses, wait in their positions until Honored Queen has spoken.

HONORED QUEEN: My friends, you have heard the story of Easter, so seemingly tragic at the trial and crucifixion, yet in reality gloriously triumphant through the resurrection, which signifies consecration, for Jesus was made the sacrifice for our sins by His death on Calvary. Let us tonight, bring gifts of consecration to Him. Our remaining Officers will, on our behalf, present them at the Cross.

OUTER GUARD: Jesus used all his intellect and strength to preach the Gospel of Life. And so I bring my strength, both physical and mental, and consecrate it to his service.

INNER GUARD: Just as Jesus sacrificed his all on Calvary, not only His life, but everything He possessed, so tonight I bring my possessions and lay them at His feet.

Princesses have purple flowers and place them at extremes of arms of Cross.

JUNIOR PRINCESS: Jesus prayed, “not my will, but Thine, be done.” So I consecrate my will to Him that His will, not mine be done.

SENIOR PRINCESS: Just as Jesus gave his life that we might live, so I bring my life and place it at the Cross that He might use it as He wills.

Chaplain does not have flowers. She steps up and goes to north of Altar, then to east of Altar, and kneels. Daughters assume Attitude of Prayer with Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN: Dear Lord, our loving Savior, we thank You that You were willing to die upon the Cross for us because you loved us and that you rose again to give us eternal life. We pray that we might love You more day by day and gladly give our lives for Your service. Through Jesus’ name, Amen. Chaplain returns to her station

HONORED QUEEN: It is the Cross of Jesus Christ that we see in its divine form. Jesus died because He loved us. So tonight bring the Crown of Roses, the rose, a symbol of love and the crown, a symbol of kingship to signify our love for Him and willingness to serve Him as King.

Honored Queen leaves East, goes west of Altar, stands in front of Cross, removes crown of thorns and places crown of roses on Cross, returns to station. Choir may sing, “Crown Him with Many Crowns,” or other suitable music or hymn. A Cross may be formed east of the Altar during the hymn.

JOB’S DAUGHTERS FRATERNAL PAGEANT

SUGGESTIONS:

This ceremony is most adaptable. It can be given by one or more Bethels. Formation of emblems may be arranged to fit available floor space. No Altar is necessary. One or more Narrators may be used.

If this is to be an evening’s entertainment with no formal opening of any organization, the evening could be opened with a Master of Ceremonies, preferably a Mason, either the Master or a Past Master. It would honor Masonry in having a Master or Past Master to present the Narrators during the evening.

It is desirable to: have a Master Mason or Associate Bethel Guardian give the narration during the formation of the Masonic Emblem; have an Eastern Star member be narrator for the Eastern Star Emblem; have, if possible, a mature member of Job's Daughters narrate for the Job's Daughters' Emblem. She should be one experienced in giving readings. It is also desirable to have a Job's Daughter narrate for the closing (unless one narrator is used during the whole evening.)

The Tribute to the Job's Daughters' Flag should be memorized and presented by a Job's Daughter. Daughters wear Official Regalia.

To make the Star more colorful, a band of ribbon or crepe paper in Star Point colors may be fastened on right shoulder across the front to waistline under left arm.

Approximate time for the ceremony is forty minutes.

Musician plays march music as Daughters enter, forming Square and Compass. Soft music may be played during reading. Lights semi-dimmed.

HONORING MASONS:

NARRATOR: The history of Masonry dates back to the time before the Christian era. In the middle of the Seventeenth Century, a group of skilled architects banded themselves together for the protection of their craft and the prosperity of their skills. They were the first "Master Masons", creators of the magnificent edifices of the medieval period of Cathedral building in Europe. They worked under their own government, traveling from place to place as work required.

Some years later, in 1702, a London, England, lodge decided to open the doors of Masonry to men unskilled in architecture. As the demand for operative skill decreased, the lofty moral principles, noble deeds and manly virtues of those who were already members, attracted to this society men of prominence in Church and State, whose higher character and fine attainments had made them distinguished. This is the origin of Free Masonry as we know it today.

Persecuted by Church and State because of its successful effort to promote free thinking and lofty ideals, its history pages are smeared with the blood of martyrs who gave their lives that this Order survive. Its history also has many gilded pages covered with the records of deeds well done, of bonded men set free, and of mercy and good-will to all mankind.

A writer of authority on the subject of Masonry tells us that the great secret of this Order is that it makes men aware of the divine within them. A Mason's whole life takes its beauty and meaning from this diving spark and inspires him to follow and obey it. This same writer says, "a man is a Mason, when he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage which is the root of every virtue."

This quotation from "The Veil of Isis" by Winwood Reade, is a revelation of the high ideals of this great Masonic Order that we revere and honor. Full lights here.

"The doctrines of Masonry are the most beautiful that are possible to imagine. They breathe the simplicity of the earliest ages, animated by the love of a martyred God. That word which Puritans translated charity, but which is really love, is the keystone which supports the entire edifice of this mystic science. Love one another, teach one another, help one another. This is all our doctrine, all our science, all our law. We have no narrow-minded prejudices; we do not debar from our society this sect or that sect; it is sufficient for us that man worships God no matter under what name or in what manner. It is impossible to be a good Mason without being a good man."

Here we have formed the Square and Compass, symbolic emblems of this exalted Order, to which the youth assembled this evening owe their heritage. We exalt it, honor it. We are proud of its victories over bitter persecution, we are grateful for its triumph over the snares of time.

Solo: "How Firm A Foundation". March music for Daughters to retire.

HONORING EASTERN STAR:

Musician plays march music as Daughters enter to form a star. Soft music may be played during reading. Lights semi-dimmed as girls enter, then raised later.

NARRATOR: Women are no part of the Masonic Order. But woman's heart does beat responsively to the same inspiration that prompts man to noble deeds, and out of this desire to serve in a like manner and the human desire for fraternal fellowship came the banding together of women of Masonic relationship known as The Order of the Eastern Star.

This glorious star, significant of the Star of Bethlehem which heralded the coming of the Light of all Lights, has in less than a century shed its rays of light into all parts of the world. Its dignity and beauty as a fraternal order is respected and revered by Masons and laymen alike. (Lights bright here.)

Oh great and glorious Eastern Star whose light has shed both near and far
To bless and comfort young and old, Yea, light their path to a sheltered fold, we honor thee. here

Your ray of blue has taught us too that God loves us as fathers do.
Fidelity in each kindred soul is the valued lesson by the blue ray told.

The golden light of the second ray
has changed the outlook of many a day,

Here we recall that labor brings love,
the reward of labor sent from above.
Constancy of purpose be it humble or great
is blessed with companionship, a joy to relate.

Loyalty shines from the pure ray of white
and loyalty pierces the darkness of night.
It demands allegiance to family and friend,
to Nation, to God, to the World, without end.
Loyalty is the lesson on our hearts we must write
if God is to guide us in the pathway of right.

Green pastures mean growth and new life on the earth
for good Eastern Stars, green symbolizes rebirth.
The green of the fourth ray is the hope of all men
for it tells by its story, "We shall live again."

The red of the fifth ray is the symbol of love,
mother love, Fraternal love, the love from above
That God in His Fatherhood gives to each one,
who seeks but to know Him and His Blessed Son.

Yes, Glorious Order of the Eastern Star,
we pay you just tribute, for nothing can bar
The light of your good deeds, your teachings of faith,
the gifts of fine women to country and state,
This star of your Daughters is our tribute to you,
with our respect and honor, in all that we do.

In loving tribute one of our Daughters sings: ("the Lord is My Light". March music for Daughters to retire.)

HONORING THE ORDER OF THE AMARANTH:

NARRATOR: The Order of the Amaranth has a royal ancestry, being founded upon and descended from an order created by Queen Christina of Sweden in 1653. This brilliant young woman who became queen of her warlike nation at the age of six, devoted her life to promoting, learning and the fine arts.

Christina created an Order of the Amaranth to honor Lady Amaranth, a woman of rare beauty, charm and virtuous and noble character. For many years the Order was immensely popular throughout Europe, and the most distinguished ladies and gentlemen considered themselves honored by being made members of the Order. During Christina's reign, the Order was supported with royal pomp, dignity, and magnificence by the ladies and knights of Royal Court.

The Order of the Amaranth appeared again in France when the Lodges of Adoption were organized about 1730, each of which was under the control of a Masonic Lodge.

The Supreme Council of the Order of the Amaranth was formally organized in New York City in 1873 by Robert McCoy, a 33rd Degree Mason, assisted by Robert Morris and several other prominent Masons. Their original intent was to have Amaranth as the third degree in an organization for ladies with Masonic affiliation, but in 1921 this idea was changed and the Order of the Amaranth became a distinct, independent organization. The Supreme Council of the Order of the Amaranth of the World draws its membership direct from Masonic families, receiving wives, mothers, widows, sisters, half-sisters, daughters, granddaughters, step-daughters, and adopted daughters of Master Masons in good standing.

The teachings of the Order of the Amaranth are eternal and its stately ceremonies impress upon us our duty to our God, to our country, and to one another. The ideals of home, friendship, and hospitality, the impressive lessons of truth, faith, wisdom, and charity, and devotion to the flag of our country, encourage highest standards of conduct and honorable actions.

The leaves of the amaranth plant are indicative of distinction and honor. When formed into the "Amaranthine" wreath with its never-ending circle, they symbolize the bond of fraternal friendship which encircles our beloved Order. Centered on the Standard of the Order is the Amaranthine Wreath encircling the Crown and the Sword, emblems of royalty and power which united symbolize unity and strength.

HONORING WHITE SHRINE OF JERUSALEM:

NARRATOR: The ritual of the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem is founded upon the birth and life of Christ. Its teachings are scriptural and intended to illustrate and impress upon the minds of the initiates, the humble but glorious birth and life of Him who trod the winepress of life alone.

The mission of the Order is to uphold the simple religion of Christ and further His gospel of "peace and good will upon the earth," to do noble deeds, and by acts of kindness and words of cheer, make the world a better and brighter place for him or her, who, in the hour of sorrow or affliction sees nothing but darkness. There is but one degree and the obligation is based upon the honor of those who obtain it, and once voluntarily assumed, is perpetual. The emblems are the star, the Cross, and the shepherd's crook.

The beautiful story related by the three wise men and the shepherd admonishes us to exercise thoughtful, loving kindness and patience. We are led by ways we know now, but if we are earnest, conscientious and walk in the Light as it is given us, then we may safely trust the results in the hands of Him who does all things well.

MASONIC TRIBUTE

SUGGESTIONS:

1. This ceremony may be performed at a regular Bethel meeting when there is a special night to honor Masons.
2. It may be used as an exemplification to a Masonic Lodge.
3. It may be used at a Masonic Installation in which case the phrases in parentheses would be used.

The Bethel Guardian and the Associate Bethel Guardian, accompanied by the Guide and the Marshal enter the room and proceed on the North and South Lines to the East Line. They all turn toward the center. Guide and Marshal stop in front of the Custodians' chairs and face each other. The Bethel Guardian and Associate Bethel Guardian ascend the Dais. As they turn west, the Guide and Marshal also turn west.

BETHEL GUARDIAN: Guide and Marshal, you will retire and present the members of Bethel ___ to the Master Masons of ___ Lodge No. ___ (and their guests) who have gathered for this special occasion.

The Guide and Marshal return to the North and South Marching Lines and proceed to the Anteroom and Preparation Room, opening the doors and standing at the front of the line of officers. They proceed on the North and South Marching Lines and form the Square and Compass formation (See Diagram 49). The line-up is as follows:

Preparation Room

Marshal
Outer Guard
2nd Messenger
4th Messenger
3rd Messenger
Chaplain
Librarian
Senior Princess
Senior Custodian

Anteroom

Guide
Inner Guard
5th Messenger
1st Messenger
Treasurer
Recorder
Junior Princess
Honored Queen
Junior Custodian

As the Officers enter the Narrator begins to read.

FIRST NARRATOR: Through the centuries, one group of men has taught a higher meaning of life and promoted free thinking. They are the Master Masons. We honor the members and (new Officers) of ___ Lodge (at the installation of their ___ (year) officers) for their work in continuing this honorable commitment.

For the members of Bethel ___, Master Masons represent the strong values of loving one another and helping one another – the tenets of Masonry that are shared by Job's Daughters International. The basis of our Order is found in the Book of Job, 42nd Chapter, 15th

Verse: "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren."

Tonight we emphasize the latter part of that quotation, "...and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren." To become a Job's Daughter a girl must be related to a Master Mason. That is the inheritance she receives from you. This kinship is a special one. Therefore, we share not only a commitment to a common set of values, but also a common heritage.

SECOND NARRATOR: The members of Bethel ___ have formed the Square and Compass – the symbol of Freemasonry. In honor of ___, Worshipful Master of ___ Lodge, we form the square, the emblem of his office, which calls Masons to square their actions by the square of virtue. Just as the Worshipful Master is charged to teach morality, the members of Job's Daughters are committed to live a virtuous life as stated in our motto, "Virtue is a quality which highly adorns woman." The Chaplain, Treasurer and the five Messengers comprise the Square and represent the virtues of piety, honesty and reverence for our Creator.

FIRST NARRATOR: To the members of ___ Lodge, we dedicate our formation of the Compass which circumscribes the bounds for the moral application of the teachings of Masonry. In our Compass you will find the elected officers as well as other officers. This implies the equality of each of us, and that the same parameters apply to each of us no matter what our station in life may be. Members of ___ Lodge, you have hewn a smooth cornerstone, free of imperfections, upon which is built a solid foundation for the protective walls that will enclose the members of Bethel ___. We use you as an example as we strive to live up to the Masonic principles you represent. Job’s Daughters hold you in great respect, and at each meeting we recognize your influence by praying, “...bless and protect the Master Masons who give us heritage.” ___Lodge and Bethel ___ are united in purpose and philosophy, and tonight (on this special occasion) we celebrate our togetherness.