

## 1976 Memorial Service

adapted from a program written by Bob Fisher Club

We are assembled in remembrance of those who have lived in accordance with the teachings of our Order and are now in that Greater Temple above. On the altar, flowers form a “living cross” to reflect a loving tribute to their memory. “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth saith the Spirit, that they rest from their labors and their works do follow them.” Each year the fraternal chain is broken as members journey on that far road which leads to the garden of God. They have passed the test of Earth and have gone to receive the reward of Heaven. The good they did follows them and remains with us also. Let it be an inspiration to stir and purify our minds by way of remembrance. As the attributes of our Order were manifested in their lives, we too must strive to live. Were they – these dead – not obedient to the demands of honor and justice when they sought wisdom? For “Happy is the man who findeth wisdom and the man who getteth understanding.” “Although one generation passeth away and another generation cometh. There is no new thing under the sun and all things come alike to all.” Believing this – those whom we remember have gone to Him saying “Thy will not mine Oh Lord be done.” “To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted.” For all life is born to die and to receive the reward of His Eternal Peace. And they have been carried away according to His promise – to that Great City, the holy Jerusalem descending out of Heaven from God.”

### Hymn:

Prayer: Gracious God in whose name we are gathered, we ask Thy presence in our midst as we reverently bow our heads seeking the love and solace promised by the words, “come with me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” As sorrow and need makes our way weary, we ask to be uplifted by the blessed assurance of a beautiful life hereafter. Lead us in Thy way, so when the summons comes, each may declare, “I have finished my course. I have kept the faith.” Amen