

1983 Memorial Service
adapted from program by elves of 1979

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 and God shows His promise in the pathway of light we follow. Just as night brings an end to a beautiful day, so does death bring an end to a beautiful life. But we know that there is a new bright life to follow after our earthly chores are laid aside. Our Sisters and Brothers who have left us are with us all today in our memories and in our hearts. We are aware of the gifts of life that our Heavenly Father has blessed us with and are aware also that He has preordained our return to Him. All of these things are done in His eternal love and we have been given opportunities to emulate the virtues exemplified in the lives of our departed members.

Sister Adah presents fidelity. 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.

Sister Ruth represents constancy. In memory of those who were brave and true. "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." Our Savior said, "I will never leave thee, Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." May these words help you be obedient to the demands of honor and justice in all conditions of Life.

Sister Esther represents light, purity and joy. A lesson that teaches a pure and upright life is above the tongue of reproach. 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, peace and light.

Sister Martha represents hope and immortality. God promised, "Whosoever believeth in Me shall not perish but shall have everlasting Life." A trustful faith in the hour of trial will lighten our burdens and help us through our times of sorrow. May His promise strengthen you and give you hope and faith.

Sister Electa represents fervency. The red ray is an emblem of love for us and also an emblem of the loving memories we have of those who have gone before us. Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. God said, "Love One Another as I love You."

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, thou who are a friend of every sorrowing heart, we come to Thee in our weakness, asking for strength and guidance. We would not grieve for our loved ones, Father, for we know they are safe in Thy keeping. 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 those who walked with us for awhile and who have passed to the great beyond to await our coming. We are richer for having known them.

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. May these broken links of our golden chain give us peace and happiness as we remember our fraternal love of one another and Thee. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Going Home