

## 2003 Memorial Service

adapted from program by Ruthann Christensen

Today we pause from our labors to pay tribute to the members of our Eastern Star who have answered the call to the Ultimate Chapter on high. They are gone from our sight now, but their presence among us will be long. Their years of service to Grand Chapter and our chapter have prepared the road for those of us who come after them. Their example of loving service has inspired us to follow. With grateful hearts, we recall their service today.

Sing: Nearer My God to Thee

Let Us Unite in Prayer: God of love and power and mercy, we ask your richest blessings to rest upon the members of this Grand Chapter and upon those of our number who have gone on to be with You in the realm of light where there is no pain, no sadness and no mourning, only joy. As you have promised to so many in ages past, we trust that our departed Sisters and Brothers have seen your radiance in truth, in peace and in love. Grant that we too may be permitted one day to see Your Face and to rest in the light of Your love. For today, strengthen and guide us to continue Your good work in the world. All we ask in Jesus' name, amen.

We remember especially today: name(s)

A white rose(s) is placed on the altar.

Adah placing a blue ribbon on altar : My love for my father surpassed any fear of death, and to defend his honor, I died with dignity. This blue ribbon represents God's faithfulness to the promise of resurrection. We remember with joy the unquenchable fidelity of our departed Sisters and Brothers.

Ruth placing a yellow ribbon: As a foreigner gleaning in the fields of Boaz, my words – Whither thou goest - bear witness to God's presence and guidance from horizon to horizon." The yellow ray of nature represents God's handiwork in field and flower.

Esther placing a white ribbon: As a secret Jew, I risked the loss of royal favor and life itself to save my people from extermination. The white ray represents the light, purity and joy in which are departed Sisters and Brothers now reside.

Martha placing a green ribbon: As a Christian, I had a trustful Faith and hope of immortality, believing in the teachings of Jesus. The green ray of immortality represents the promise of eternal life to those who love God.

Electa: As a Christian, I extended generous aid and hospitality to the distressed. The red ray of love represents the triumph of truth and love over fear.

Our sisters and brothers have weathered the storms of life, but are now at peace. They have lived the lessons of the colors and successfully they have reached the close of their days on earth. They have gone forward into the White Light of Promise and there they have received the victory.

Four red roses are placed in the altar to form a cross: Now in loving memory of our departed Sisters and Brothers we lay these roses upon the altar. May the cross they form remind us of the tie that binds us forever with our Sisters and Brothers who have gone on into the light and also with one another. Let us cherish their memory in the silent spaces of our hearts.