

THE FUNERAL SERVICE



As Revised By
GRAND LODGE, F.&A.M.
OF CALIFORNIA

October 1979

With Revised Instruction For
Chapel, Home, Church, Synagogue,
Temple or Graveside Service

Lodge Room Service (Opened on 3°)
Service In Lodge Room (Same as Chapel)
and
Lodge Room Memorial Service
1988

Reformatted 2005
Revised 2008

INDEX

	Page
Certification for Masonic Funeral Service.	3
Funeral Information.	5
Checklist of Things to do Prior to Service	7
Foreword for Chapel, Home, Church, Synagogue or Graveside Service	8
Ritual for Chapel, Home, Church, Synagogue or Graveside Service.	10
Foreword for Lodge Room Service and Lodge Room Memorial Service	17
Ritual for Lodge Room Service and Lodge Room Memorial Service.	19
Foreword for Memorial Service other than Lodge Room Memorial Service	26
Ritual For Memorial Service other than Lodge Room Memorial Service	28

CERTIFICATION FOR MASONIC FUNERAL SERVICE

1. *No Brother (Master, Past Master or any other Brother) shall perform the California Masonic Funeral Service without being properly certified (CMC 405.050, Supp.).*
2. *The Inspector of the District shall certify to the proficiency of all who perform the Funeral Service for the Lodges within his District, or those of adjacent Districts. The Inspector shall, upon being completely satisfied as to the proficiency and qualification of such Brothers, forward to the Grand Master a request that a certificate of qualification and authorization be issued which shall grant said Brother the authority to perform the California Masonic Funeral Service when properly requested to do so.*
3. *Prior to officiating, the Master must be certified in the Funeral Service. If the Master is not certified, it shall be the responsibility of the Master and the Inspector to have a certified Brother available at all times.*
4. *In order to qualify, the following requirements must be demonstrated by the Brother to the complete satisfaction of the Inspector:*
 - a. *Delivery of the Funeral Service in its entirety in a creditable manner. With some Brothers this may require total memorization; others may be able to read and deliver it in a creditable manner.*
 - b. *Proper pronunciation and enunciation.*
 - c. *Complete knowledge of duties and responsibilities of Funeral Service Officiant.*
 - d. *Personal habits, dignity, and appearance appropriate to the solemnity of the Service.*
 - e. *Emotional stability.*
5. *All requests for certificates shall be submitted on the Grand Lodge form to be furnished to the Inspector and shall be effective for a period of three years from date of issuance.*
6. *Inspector shall maintain a current record of all qualified Brethren in his District, with date of certification and expiration date and shall forward a copy to the Grand Lecturer and the Assistant Grand Lecturer each year on July 1, when filing his annual report.*
7. *Inspector shall furnish to the Master of each Lodge in his District and the Executive Secretary of all adjacent Masonic Service Bureaus, a written list of all Brothers who are currently qualified in his District, each year. He shall also notify the above named individuals of any additions or deletions during the year, at the time such changes shall occur.*

8. *Prior to renewal of any certificate, the Inspector must satisfy himself as to the Brother's proficiency.*
9. *Any Inspector desiring a certificate must be examined and certified by another Inspector, and A.G.L., or the Grand Lecturer.*

FUNERAL INFORMATION

One of the most important phases of the Master's responsibilities is in regard to the sequence of events that are brought to the forefront upon the death of a Brother. The Master is obligated to discharge certain duties, among which are the following:

- 1. Ascertain the eligibility for a Masonic Service.*
- 2. Immediately call on the widow or family of the deceased Brother to express sympathy and condolences at the time of bereavement.*
- 3. Offer assistance of the Officers and Brethren of the Lodge.*
- 4. Determine whether a Masonic funeral is desired, or requested. (If a Sojourner, proper authorization must be obtained from either the Secretary or Master of the Sojourner's Lodge, or through the Grand Lodge of his jurisdiction.)*
- 5. Make certain that a certified Brother is available to perform the Service.*
- 6. Arrange for the attendance of Officers and Brethren at the Service.*
- 7. Maintain contact with the widow or family and render whatever assistance is required during period of adjustment following the immediate period of bereavement.*

There are several pertinent points to keep in mind in regard to the Funeral Service to insure the utmost conformity to the responsibility due the widow, the family, the Lodge, and Masonry in general.

First, of course, is the faithful discharge of the responsibilities outlined above.

*Secondly, the importance of the best possible rendition of the Service. This may be accomplished by a strict adherence to the directives of the **Grand Lecturer** in regard to the requirement of proficiency on the part of the Brother officiating. This is imperative, not only from the standpoint of the comfort to be provided thereby to the family, but also with regard to the good name of Freemasonry as exemplified on such occasions before the general public.*

Third, the consideration given our requirements in regard to the Service itself, maintaining the uninterrupted continuity of the Service from beginning to end; complying to any reasonable request of the family that is not inconsistent with our established customs and instructions; and cooperation with any clergyman rendering a religious funeral service in conjunction with our Service.

Fourth, make certain that the instructions contained within the Funeral Service book are complied with.

Fifth, establish a Funeral Service committee which may be charged with the responsibility of attending Funerals, and contacting other Brothers to attend. A representative turnout of members is of primary importance.

Sixth, be certain that the Sacred Roll, Lambskin Apron, and an Evergreen are on hand for the Service, and that white aprons in sufficient supply are available for the Brethren attending.

Seventh, if a Eulogy is requested by the family to be a part of the Masonic Service, or it be deemed appropriate, make certain that the person giving the Eulogy is well informed and capable of rendering the same in a dignified and sincere manner. A short Eulogy is particularly appropriate, if done well, on occasions embracing the Masonic Funeral Service only.

Eighth, keep in mind that there are three types of Funeral Service. There are certain instructions that must be observed, particularly with respect to the Chapel Memorial and, Graveside Services. When any Service has commenced, it must continue uninterrupted to its conclusion, with the exception of the Eulogy or solemn music. Also, it must be kept in mind that if the Lodge is to participate at the Graveside Service, our Service must be rendered in its entirety without interruption as aforementioned.

Ninth, following the Service, in a spirit of concern for the widow or family, present a copy of the Funeral Service as prepared by our Grand Lodge, titled "Our Tribute of Affection."

The foregoing is a brief resume of the many duties and responsibilities incumbent upon the Master and Brethren. The Master, particularly, should be fully informed as to his obligations, and all instructions available pertaining to the proper performance of the Service.

CHECKLIST

LIST OF THINGS TO DO PRIOR TO SERVICE

Ascertain if a Eulogy or solemn music is to be a part of our ceremony.

Select Pallbearers, if requested.

Make certain that the Sacred Roll has been prepared.

Make certain that enough aprons are available.

Ascertain if there is to be music.

Ascertain if the Service is to be only Masonic or combined with a church, synagogue, or other organization.

Ascertain if the Service is to be concluded at the designated place or at the cemetery.

Appoint a Marshal, if necessary.

Make certain that the apron is in place.

Make certain that the Evergreen has been secured.

If a P.A. system is to be used, make certain that it is in working order, and be certain that it can be heard by all present even though they are not in the room where service is being performed.

Ascertain where the family is to be seated.

To ease last minute tensions that usually precede a Masonic funeral and to insure a free-flowing service, the Master (or the Officiant) should arrive at the place designated well in advance of the starting time.

FOREWORD

FOR CHAPEL, HOME, CHURCH, SYNAGOGUE, TEMPLE, OR GRAVESIDE SERVICE

The Funeral Service may be held entirely in a chapel, home, church, synagogue, or at graveside using option of delivering entire Service from lectern or delivering Service with allowed movement to and from lectern.

The “Committal” is to be delivered at the final resting place, or at the place where the Masonic Service is concluded.

The language of the Service is ritual and shall not be deviated from (except for movement options), nor are interpolations to be permitted except that a Eulogy may be delivered at the place indicated in the Service.

All Masons including Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may be accorded the Masonic Funeral Service at the request of the deceased Brother’s family. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts cannot take part in the Ceremony or Procession.

All Brethren in the Procession should be dressed in dark clothes with white aprons worn on the outside of the coat, without gloves. Regalia of concordant and appendant bodies shall not be worn. The Master wears an Evergreen and is without hat or gavel. Concordant and appendant bodies must conform to constituent Lodge regulations when attending a Lodge funeral.

There is no Masonic Funeral street procession.

Before the commencement of the Service, the Lambskin Apron is placed upon the casket, lectern, or a stand. The Sacred Roll is placed upon the lectern from which the Service is to be delivered.

If the deceased is to be buried with “Military Honors,” the casket is draped with “The Flag of our Country” and the apron is placed in some convenient position, but not upon the Flag. Otherwise, the apron is placed flat upon the casket in usual position, with the cords caught up, each tied in a bow at side of apron, or it may be placed upon the lectern. No flowers or anything else should be placed upon the Flag.

Care should be exercised to comply with any reasonable wish of the family. If any special requests are made or there are any unusual conditions, consult with the Inspector of the District before denying the request or attempting to adapt the service to the circumstances.

This Service is less formal than the Lodge Room Service, and the “form” must be adapted to the physical arrangement of the facilities. The only requirement is that the Master have a passage way from his lectern to the casket, so that he may deposit the Sacred Roll, etc.

The Lodge may, but need not be opened, but if opened it must be closed, as after the Lodge Room Service.

The Brethren informally assemble outside the chapel. Immediately before the Service, the Brethren file into the chapel and take seats assigned to them immediately behind the place allocated to the pallbearers. The Master and Chaplain may lead the procession or enter from a convenient door near the lectern just before the Service is to start.

The Master, officers, and members alike wear white aprons, without jewels, and Master is without hat or gavel.

The family of the deceased, the Master, and Minister may decide the order of the Services, if a church or other Fraternal Service is to be used in addition to the Masonic Service. The entire Masonic Service must be given. If the Masonic Service follows the Church or other Fraternal Service, the Master, as an act of courtesy, may request a participating ordained Minister to deliver the benediction.

RITUAL

FOR CHAPEL, HOME, CHURCH, SYNAGOGUE,
TEMPLE, OR GRAVESIDE SERVICE

MASTER:—Brethren and Friends: It has been a custom among the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons from time immemorial, at the request of a departed brother or his family, to assemble in the character of Masons and with the solemn formalities of the Craft, to offer up to his memory, before the world, the last tribute of our affection.

Our brother has reached the end of his earthly toils. The brittle thread which bound him to earth has been severed and the liberated spirit has winged its flight to the unknown world. The silver cord is loosed; the golden bowl is broken; the pitcher is broken at the fountain; and the wheel is broken at the cistern. The dust has returned to the earth as it was, and the spirit has returned to God who gave it.

Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend the soul of our beloved brother.

An anthem or other solemn music may here be introduced, after which Master reads Sacred Roll, remaining at lectern or he may proceed to casket and say, "Almighty Father, etc.," deposit Roll on casket and return to lectern.

—0—

The Great Creator having in His infinite wisdom, removed our brother from the cares and troubles of this earthly life, thus severing another link in the fraternal chain by which we are bound together, let us who survive him be yet more strongly cemented by the ties of brotherly love; that during the brief space allotted to us here, we may wisely and usefully employ our time, and, in the mutual exchange of kind and friendly acts, promote the welfare and happiness of each other.

While we pay this fraternal tribute to his memory, let us not forget, my brethren, that we too, are mortal; and that our spirits, too, must return to the God who spake them into existence. "Man that is born of a woman is of a few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." The almighty fiat has gone forth—"Dust thou art, and unto dust

shalt thou return;” and that we are all subject to that decree, the daily observation of our lives furnished evidence not to be forgotten.

Seeing then, my brethren, that life is so uncertain, and that all material pursuits are vain, let us no longer postpone the all-important concern of preparing for eternity; but let us embrace the present moment, while time and opportunity are offered, to provide for that great change when all the pomp and pleasure of this fleeting world will pall upon the senses, and the recollection of a virtuous and well-spent life will yield the only comfort and consolation. Thus we shall not be unprepared to enter into the presence of the one all-wise and powerful Judge, to whom the secrets of all hearts are known; and on the great day of reckoning we shall be ready to give a good account of our stewardship while here on earth.

With becoming reverence let us supplicate the Divine Grace, whose goodness and power know no bounds, that, on the arrival of the momentous hour, our Faith may remove the clouds of doubt, draw aside the sable curtains of the hidden world beyond, and bid Hope sustain and cheer the departing spirit.

—0—

CHAPLAIN:—Most Glorious God! Author of all good, and Giver of all mercy! Pour down Thy blessing upon us, we beseech Thee, and strengthen our solemn engagements with the ties of sincere affection! Endue us with fortitude and resignation in this hour of sorrow, and grant that this dispensation from Thy hands may be sanctified in its results upon the hearts of those who now meet to mourn! May the present instance of mortality draw our attention toward Thee, the only refuge in time of need. Enable us to look with eyes of Faith toward that realm whose skies are never darkened by sorrow; and after our departure hence in peace and in Thy favor, may we be received into Thy everlasting kingdom, to enjoy the just reward of a virtuous and well-spent life. Amen!

—0—

BRETHREN:—So mote it be!

—0—

Solemn music may here again be introduced, after which the Master continues.

MASTER:—Our brother has been raised in that blissful Lodge which no time can close, but which will remain open during the boundless ages of eternity. In that Heavenly Sanctuary, the Mystic Light, unmingled with darkness, will reign unbroken and perpetual. There, under the protection of the All-Seeing Eye, amid the smiles of Immutable Love, in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens,—there, my brethren, may Almighty God in His infinite mercy, grant that we may meet again, to part no more.

When showing apron, Master picks up apron from lectern, using both hands on upper corners. When finished with apron lecture, he lays it upon lectern along side Sacred Roll.

—or—

Apron may be draped upon casket prior to Service, If this option is exercised, apron will remain upon casket through entire service, including apron lecture.

—or—

Master goes to side of casket, picks up apron by upper corners with both hands, faces audience and repeats next paragraph, then places apron upon casket.

The Lambskin Apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason; more ancient than the Golden Fleece or the Roman Eagle, more honorable than the Star or Garter, or any distinction that can be conferred by king, prince, potentate, or any other person. By it we are continually reminded of that purity of life and conduct so essentially necessary to gain admission into the Celestial Lodge above where the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe forever presides.

Master then displays Evergreen and holds it while repeating next paragraph, then either places Evergreen upon the lectern with apron and Sacred Roll or places it upon casket.

This Evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of one illustrious in Masonic history, is an emblem of our enduring faith in the Immortality of the Soul. By it we are reminded that we have an imperishable part within us, which shall survive all earthly existence, and which will never, never die. Through the loving goodness of our Supreme Grand Master, we may confidently hope that like this Evergreen, our souls will hereafter flourish in eternal spring.

If option to go to side of casket has been chosen, Master remains there for next paragraph.

We shall ever cherish in our hearts the memory of our departed brother and, commending his spirit to Almighty God, we trustingly leave him in the hands of that Beneficent Being who has done all thing well; who is glorious in His Holiness, wondrous in His Power, and boundless in His Goodness; and it should always be our endeavor so to live that we too may be found worthy to inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

If option to go to side of casket has been chosen, Master returns to lectern.

NOTE: A eulogy may be delivered at this point by the Master or any other person, if desired, after which the Master proceeds.

MASTER:—We extend to the bereaved relatives and friends of our departed brother our sincere sympathy in this hour of sorrow, and we pray that “He who tempers the wind to the shorn Lamb” will give them His divine comfort and consolation, and that they may come to realize that the spirit of our brother is happy in his Father’s house, where “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.”

—0—

If “Committal” is to be at place of interment and if not done previously, Master places apron, Sacred Roll and Evergreen either in or upon casket, then takes position at head of casket and Funeral Director takes charge.

—or—

If “Committal” is delivered in the Chapel, the Master may remain at lectern or deliver it at the casket. If Master chooses to remain at lectern prior to Benediction, he then places Apron, Sacred Roll, and Evergreen in or upon casket and takes position at the head of the casket and remains there until all present have passed in procession. Chaplain takes position at foot of casket.

—or—

If Master chooses to deliver "Committal" at casket and if not previously deposited, he then places Apron, Sacred Roll, and Evergreen in or upon casket, delivers "Committal," takes position at head of casket and remains there until all present have passed in procession. Chaplain takes position at foot of casket.

—0—

COMMITTAL

MASTER:—Soft and safe to thee, my brother, be thy resting place! Bright and glorious be thy rising from it! Fragrant be the acacia sprig that there shall flourish! May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties o'er thy resting place, and there may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest! Though the winds of Autumn may destroy the loveliness of their existence, yet the destruction is not final, and in the springtime, they shall surely bloom again. So, in the bright morning of the resurrection, thy spirit shall spring into newness of life and expand in immortal beauty, in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear brother, until then, farewell!

CHAPLAIN:—The Lord Bless us and keep us! The Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us! The Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace! Amen!

—0—

BRETHREN:—So mote it be!

—0—

When the Funeral Director takes charge, brethren file out of chapel and form a double line, facing inward, forming an aisle from door of chapel to hearse. Then pallbearers retire, leaving family with casket until called by Funeral Director. Master and Chaplain to remain if circumstances so indicate.

When called for, the Master, Chaplain, and pallbearers return and, with the Master and Chaplain in the lead, conduct the casket through the aisle of Brethren to the hearse. When a church service has also been used, the Master may invite the ordained Minister to walk with him in the Chaplain's place.

CONTINUATION OF SERVICE— AT GRAVESIDE

If the entire Service has been concluded in the chapel, the officers, and Brethren need not accompany the remains to the Cemetery, Mausoleum, or Crematory, but if Master and Chaplain elect to do so, a simple prayer may be offered at the place of interment.

If the Service is to be concluded at the place of interment, the Master and Chaplain should accompany the remains to the last resting place. The other Brethren should repair to the place of interment, and with the officers, form an aisle of Brethren from hearse to place of committal, officers nearest the hearse. With Master and Chaplain leading, the casket is conducted to place of committal. The officers and Brethren turn in and follow the casket as it passes through the aisle. Master and Chaplain take up positions at head of casket, the Senior Warden at the foot. Other Brethren, under direction of the Marshal are grouped at any convenient place.

CHAPLAIN:—Heavenly Father, as we come to perform the final act of parting from our brother, grant that we may have an inspired vision to enable us to look with faith beyond the veil, and that our hearts may know the continuing presence of a soul now set free from the limitations of mortality. We pray Thee to give us the strength to bear our daily burdens until we, too, shall enter into the Celestial Lodge above, to dwell with those who have served with us here, until time shall be no more. Amen!

—0—

BRETHREN:—So mote it be!

—0—

COMMITTAL

MASTER:—Soft and safe to thee, my brother, be thy resting place! Bright and glorious be thy rising from it! Fragrant be the acacia sprig that there shall flourish! May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties o'er thy resting place, and there may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest! Though the winds of Autumn may destroy the loveliness of their existence, yet the destruction is not final, and in the springtime, they shall surely bloom again. So, in the bright morning of the resurrection, thy spirit shall

spring into newness of life and expand in immortal beauty, in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear brother, until then, farewell!

—0—

CHAPLAIN:—The Lord bless us and keep us! The Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us! The Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace! Amen!

—0—

BRETHREN:—So mote it be!

—0—

The officers and brethren return to the Lodge and if it has been opened proceed to close.

FOREWORD

FOR LODGE ROOM SERVICE AND LODGE ROOM MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Lodge Room Service and Lodge Room Memorial Service are held entirely in the Lodge Room.

The “Committal” is to be delivered at the final resting place, or at the place where the Masonic Service is concluded.

The language of the Service is ritual and shall not be deviated from, nor are interpolations to be permitted except that a eulogy may be delivered at the place indicated in the Service.

All Masons including Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may be accorded the Masonic Funeral Service at the request of the deceased brother’s family.

Regalia of concordant and appendant bodies shall not be worn.

There is no Masonic Funeral street procession.

In the Lodge Room Memorial Service a table, measuring not less than 15” x 24” x 30” high, shall be provided, and placed between the Altar and the Senior Warden’s station; this table is to be covered with a white cloth, upon which will be placed a Lambskin Apron, and Urn (if desired). The Sacred Roll and the Evergreen shall be placed upon the table when and where indicated in the Service.

If the deceased is to be buried with “Military Honors,” the casket is draped with “The Flag of our Country” and the apron is placed in some convenient position, but not upon the Flag. Otherwise, the apron is laid flat on the casket or table in usual position, with the cords caught up, each tied in a bow at side of apron.

Care should be exercised to comply with any reasonable wish of the family. If any special requests are made or there are any unusual conditions, consult with the Inspector of the District before denying the request or attempting to adapt the service to the circumstances.

In advance of the Service, the Lodge is opened on the Third Degree of Masonry “for the purpose or conducting the funeral of our late Brother _____,” and in regular form is called from labor to refreshment for that purpose. The jewels are “broken” and the columns changed. Thereafter, and before visitors are admitted to the room, the casket, or table, is placed in usual position west of the Altar, head to the west. The casket may be open or closed, according to the wishes of the family.

A reasonable time before the commencement of the Service, visitors should be admitted to the Lodge Room, and ushers should be provided to escort them to seats. The Master personally should meet the members of the family at the entrance to the Lodge Room or ante-room and conduct them to seats in the candidates' room or other "screened off" location. All officers' stations are vacant and officers are outside the Lodge Room. When time for commencement of the Service, the officers form in procession outside the Tiler's door, as indicated below. All officers wear the jewels and aprons of their offices. Rods are left at their places. Master may or may not wear hat, as he chooses, and does not carry the gavel. The master wears an Evergreen attached to his lapel. Pallbearers are seated in seats reserved for them.

The procession is formed as follows:

<i>MARSHAL</i>	
<i>MASTER</i>	<i>CHAPLAIN</i>
<i>SENIOR WARDEN</i>	<i>JUNIOR WARDEN</i>
<i>TREASURER</i>	<i>SECRETARY</i>
<i>SENIOR DEACON</i>	<i>JUNIOR DEACON</i>
<i>SENIOR STEWARD</i>	<i>JUNIOR STEWARD</i>

The procession, led by the Marshal, moves slowly and quietly through the Tiler's door, turns north to a point in front of Senior Warden's station, then directly to the head of the casket, where Marshal halts and about faces. The others continue to the north and south of the casket and Altar to their places. Those having places west of the Altar turn outward and back from the Altar to their places. Senior Steward goes to his place north and east of casket. Marshal then goes directly to his place and all officers are seated in unison.

The Master immediately rises and commences the service: "Brethren and Friends, etc."

RITUAL

FOR LODGE ROOM SERVICE AND LODGE ROOM MEMORIAL SERVICE

MASTER:—Brethren and Friends: It has been a custom among the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons from time immemorial, at the request of a departed brother or his family, to assemble in the character of Masons and, with the solemn formalities of the Craft, to offer up to his memory, before the world, the last tribute of our affection.

Our brother has reached the end of his earthly toils. The brittle thread which bound him to earth has been severed and the liberated spirit has winged its flight to the unknown world. The silver cord is loosed; the golden bowl is broken; the pitcher is broken at the fountain; and the wheel is broken at the cistern. The dust has returned to the earth as it was, and the spirit has returned to God who gave it.

Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend the soul of our beloved brother.

The Marshal places the Roll upon the casket or table and returns to chair.

An anthem or other solemn music may here be introduced, after which Master hands Sacred Roll to Marshal, who goes to the south side of casket or table and stands there while Master repeats "Almighty Father, etc."

—0—

The Great Creator having in His infinite wisdom, removed our brother from the cares and troubles of his earthly life, thus severing another link in the fraternal chain by which we are bound together, let us who survive him be yet more strongly cemented by the ties of brotherly love; that during the brief space allotted to us here, we may wisely and usefully employ our time, and, in the mutual exchange of kind and friendly acts, promote the welfare and happiness of each other.

While we pay this fraternal tribute to his memory, let us not forget, my brethren, that we, too, are mortal; and that our spirits, too, must return to the God who spake them into existence. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a

flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." The almighty fiat has gone forth—"Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return;" and that we are all subject to that decree, the daily observation of our lives furnishes evidence not to be forgotten.

Seeing then, my brethren, that life is so uncertain, and that all material pursuits are vain, let us no longer postpone the all-important concern of preparing for eternity; but let us embrace the present moment, while time and opportunity are offered, to provide for that great change when all the pomp and pleasure of this fleeting world will pall upon the senses, and the recollection of a virtuous and well-spent life will yield the only comfort and consolation. Thus we shall not be unprepared to enter into the presence of the one all-wise and powerful Judge, to whom the secrets of all hearts are known; and on the great day of reckoning we shall be ready to give a good account of our stewardship while here on earth.

With becoming reverence let us supplicate the Divine Grace, whose goodness and power know no bounds, that on the arrival of the momentous hour, our Faith may remove the clouds of doubt, draw aside the sable curtains of the hidden world beyond, and bid Hope sustain and cheer the departing spirit.

CHAPLAIN:—Most Glorious God! Author of all good, and Giver of all mercy! Pour down Thy blessing upon us, we beseech Thee, and strengthen our solemn engagements with the ties of sincere affection! Endue us with us with fortitude and resignation in this hour of sorrow, and grant that this dispensation from Thy hands may be sanctified in its results upon the hearts of those who now meet to mourn! May the present instance of mortality draw our attention toward Thee, the only refuge in time of need. Enable us to look with eyes of Faith toward that realm whose skies are never darkened by sorrow; and after our departure hence in peace and in Thy favor, we may be received into thy everlasting kingdom, to enjoy the just reward of a virtuous and well-spent life. Amen!

—0—

Brethren:—So mote it be!

—0—

Solemn music may her again be introduced, after the Master continues.

Master proceeds south of Altar to a point west of casket or table, and Senior Warden goes north of casket or table to a point between the casket or table and Altar, facing each other, after which Master continues, "Our brother has been raised, etc." If, However, the major portion of those present are seated west of Altar, the Master, at his election, may take a position between the Altar and casket or table, facing west, in which case Senior Warden would advance from his station directly to a point west of casket or table facing the Master. In this later case, when returning to their stations, they would go direct, without walking around the casket or table, the Master returning north of Altar.

MASTER:—Our brother has been raised in that blissful Lodge which no time can close, but which will remain open during the boundless ages of eternity. In that Heavenly Sanctuary, the Mystic Light, unmingled with darkness will reign unbroken and perpetual. There, under the protection of the All-Seeing Eye, amid the smiles of Immutable Love, in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens,—there, my brethren, may Almighty God in His infinite mercy, grant that we may meet again, to part no more.

Master moves to south side of casket or table, picks up apron, and repeats the next paragraph.

The Lambskin Apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason; more ancient than the Golden Fleece or the Roman Eagle, more honorable than the Star or Garter, or any distinction that can be conferred by king, prince, potentate or any other person. By it we continually reminded of that purity of life and conduct so essentially necessary to gain admission into the Celestial Lodge above where the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe forever presides.

Master replaces apron upon casket or table. He then removes Evergreen from lapel and holds it while repeating the next paragraph.

This Evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of one illustrious in Masonic history, is an emblem of our enduring faith in the Immortality of the Soul. By it we are reminded that we have an imperishable part within us, which shall survive all earthly existence, and which will never, never die. Through the loving goodness of our Supreme Grand Master, we may confidently hope that, like this Evergreen, our souls will hereafter flourish in eternal spring.

Master deposits Evergreen upon casket or table and then returns to his place at the end of the casket or table.

We shall ever cherish in our hearts the memory of our departed brother and, commending his spirit to Almighty God, we trustingly leave him in the hands of that Beneficent Being who has done all things well; who is glorious in His Holiness, wondrous in His Power, and boundless in his Goodness; and it should always be our endeavor so to live that we too may be found worthy to inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

Master and Senior Warden return to stations, Master north of casket or table and Altar; Senior Warden to south of casket or table, sitting down at same time. Solemn music may here again be introduced, If eulogy or music is not to be given, Master does not sit down, but when Senior Warden is seated, Master proceeds.

NOTE: A eulogy may be delivered at this point by Master or any other person, if desired, after which the Master proceeds. If eulogy is delivered by another person, Master is seated. After eulogy Master rises and begins...

MASTER:—We extend to the bereaved relatives and friends of our departed brother our sincere sympathy in this hour of sorrow, and we pray that “He who tempers the wind to the shorn Lamb” will give them His divine comfort and consolation, and that they may come to realize that the spirit of our brother is happy in his Father’s house, where “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.”

—0—

If “Committal” (next paragraph) is to be given at the place of interment, Master here says, “The Marshall will now take charge,” but if Service is to be completed in the Lodge Room, this order is not given until after the response of the Brethren to Chaplain’s Benediction.

Master leaves his station and goes to south side of casket or table, removes his hat, if worn, and stands as if talking directly to deceased.

COMMITTAL

MASTER:—Soft and safe to thee, my brother, be thy resting place! Bright and glorious be thy rising from it! Fragrant be the acacia sprig that there shall flourish! May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties o'er thy resting place, and there may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest! Though the winds of Autumn may destroy the loveliness of their existence, yet the destruction is not final, and in the springtime, they shall surely bloom again. So, in the bright morning of the resurrection, thy spirit shall spring into newness of life and expand in immortal beauty, in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear brother, until then, farewell!

Master returns to his station west of casket or table and north of Altar, sounds gavel (xxx) and Benediction is then delivered by Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN:—The Lord bless us and keep us! The Lord Make His face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us! The Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace! Amen!

—0—

BRETHREN:—So mote it be!

—0—

MASTER:—The Marshal will now take charge.

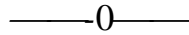
On receiving the order, Marshal forms Brethren in double file on north side of Lodge Room facing east. All officers, except Master and Chaplain, who remain in place, move as when receiving jewels, but halt in northeast corner in same order as when they enter the Lodge Room. Master Masons (except pallbearers who remain in place) fall in behind.

*Marshal then leads group by way of the east and south, past casket or table and out Tiler's door to building entrance, where group is halted. This concludes the Lodge Room **Memorial** Service.*

In the Lodge Room Service the Brethren divide left and right and face inward. Visitors follow the Brethren out of Lodge Room. Solemn music should be played during formation and passing of the procession. After visitors have left the room, the Master and Chaplain retire to a place outside of Tiler's door. (Master and Chaplain to remain if circumstances so indicate.)

When called for, the Master, Chaplain and pallbearers return and, with the Master and Chaplain in the lead, conduct the casket through the aisle of Brethren to the hearse. When a church service has also been used, the Master may invite the ordained Minister to walk with him in the Chaplain's place.

After the family leaves the Lodge Room the pallbearers, Master and Chaplain return to the Lodge Room and, with the Master and Chaplain in the lead, conduct the casket through the aisle of Brethren to the hearse.

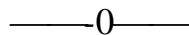


CONTINUATION OF SERVICE—
AT GRAVESIDE

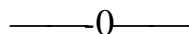
If the entire Service has been concluded in the Lodge Room, the officers and Brethren need not accompany the remains to the Cemetery, Mausoleum or Crematory, but if Master and Chaplain elect to do so, a simple prayer may be offered at the place of interment.

If the Service is to be concluded at the place of interment, the Master and Chaplain should accompany the remains to the last resting place. The other Brethren should repair the place of interment, and with the officers, form an aisle of Brethren from hearse to place of committal, officers nearest the hearse. With Master and Chaplain leading, the casket is conducted to place of committal. The officers and Brethren turn in and follow the casket as it passes through the aisle. Master and Chaplain take up positions at head of casket, the Senior Warden at the foot. Other Brethren, under direction of the Marshal are grouped formally at any convenient place.

CHAPLAIN:—Heavenly Father, as we come to perform the final act of parting from our brother, grant that we may have an inspired vision to enable us to look with faith beyond the veil, and that our hearts may know the continuing presence of a soul now set free from the limitations of mortality. We pray Thee to give us the strength to bear our daily burdens until we, too, shall enter into the Celestial Lodge above, to dwell with those who have served with us here, until time shall be no more. Amen!



BRETHREN:—So mote it be!



COMMITTAL

MASTER:—Soft and safe to thee, my brother, be thy resting place! Bright and glorious be thy rising from it! Fragrant be the acacia sprig that there shall flourish! May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties o'er thy resting place, and there may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest! Though the winds of Autumn may destroy the loveliness of their existence, yet the destruction is not final, and in the springtime, they shall surely bloom again. So, in the bright morning of the resurrection, thy spirit shall spring into newness of life and expand in immortal beauty, in realms beyond the skies. Until then, brother, until then, farewell!

—0—

CHAPLAIN:—The Lord bless us and keep us! The Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us! The Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace! Amen!

—0—

BRETHREN:—So mote it be!

—0—

The officers and brethren return to the Lodge, if it has been opened, call it to labor, and close in regular form.

FOREWORD

FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE OTHER THAN LODGE ROOM MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Memorial Service may be held entirely in a chapel, home church, synagogue, or temple.

The Service may also be rendered in a hall, room, or other facility, in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion.

The language of the Service is ritual and shall not be deviated from (except for movement options), nor are interpolations to be permitted except that a eulogy or solemn music may be delivered at the place indicated in the Service.

All Masons including Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may be accorded the Masonic Memorial Service at the request of the deceased Brother's family. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts cannot take part in the Ceremony or Procession.

All Brethren in the Procession including the Master and Chaplain should be dressed in dark clothes with white aprons worn on the outside of the coat. Regalia of concordant and appendant bodies shall not be worn. The Master wears an Evergreen and is without hat or gravel.

There is no Masonic Funeral street procession.

A table, measuring not less than 15" x 24" x 30" high, shall be provided and placed at the right hand side of the podium, lectern or designated position from which the Service is to be rendered in the chapel, hall, or other facility. This table is covered with a white cloth upon which will be placed an Urn (if desired). The Sacred Roll, the Lambskin Apron, and the Evergreen shall be placed upon the table when and where indicated in the Service.

Friends and guests shall be seated informally on their arrival.

The officers, or acting officers, and Brethren shall assemble outside the room and immediately before the Service is to commence, shall file into the room and take seats reserved for them. The Master, or acting Master, and Chaplain shall lead this procession and shall be seated with the Brethren if the Service is to be preceded by a "Religious Service," or shall proceed to their places at the front if the Masonic Service only is to be rendered.

Care should be exercised to comply with any reasonable wish of the family. If any special requests are made or there are any unusual conditions, consult with the Inspector of the District before denying the request or attempting to adapt the service to the circumstances.

This Service is less formal than the Lodge Room Service, and the “form” must be adapted to the physical arrangement of the facilities. The only requirement is that the Master have a passage way from his lectern to the casket, so that he may deposit the Sacred Roll, etc.

The Lodge may, but need not be opened, but if opened it must be closed, as after the Lodge Room Service.

The family of the deceased, the Master and Minister may decide the order of Services, if a church or other Fraternal Service is to be used in addition to the Masonic Service, but the entire Masonic Service must be given. If the Masonic Service follows the church or other Fraternal Service, the Master, as an act of courtesy, may request a participating ordained Minister to deliver the benediction.

RITUAL

FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE OTHER THAN LODGE ROOM MEMORIAL SERVICE

MASTER:—Brethren and Friends: It has been a custom among Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons from time immemorial, at the request of a departed brother or his family, to assemble in the character of Masons and, with the solemn formalities of the Craft, to offer up to his memory, before the world, the last tribute of our affection.

Our brother has reached the end of his earthly toils. The brittle thread which bound him to earth has been severed and the liberated spirit has winged its flight to the unknown world. The silver cord is loosed: the golden bowl is broken; the pitcher is broken at the fountain; and the wheel is broken at the cistern. The dust has returned to the earth as it was, and the spirit has returned to God who gave it.

Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend the soul of our beloved brother.

An anthem or other solemn music may here be introduced, after which Master reads Sacred Roll, remaining at lectern or he may proceed to table and say, "Almighty Father, etc.," deposit roll on table and return to lectern.

—0—

The Great Creator having in His infinite wisdom, removed our brother from the cares and troubles of this earthly life, thus severing another link in fraternal chain by which we are bound together, let us who survive him be yet more strongly cemented by the ties of brotherly love; that during the brief space allotted to us here, we may wisely and usefully employ our time, and, in the mutual exchange of kind and friendly acts, promote the welfare and happiness of each other.

While we pay this fraternal tribute to his memory, let us not forget, my brethren, that we, too, are mortal; and that our spirits, too, must return to the God who spake them into existence. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." The almighty fiat has gone forth—"Dust thou art, and unto dust

shalt thou return;” and that we are all subject to that decree, the daily observation of our lives furnishes evidence not to be forgotten.

Seeing then, my brethren, that life is so uncertain, and that all material pursuits are vain, let us no longer postpone the all-important concern of preparing for eternity; but let us embrace the present moment, while time and opportunity are offered, to provide for that great change when all the pomp and pleasure of this fleeting world will pall upon the senses, and the recollection of a virtuous and well-spent life will yield the only comfort and consolation. Thus we shall not be unprepared to enter into the presence of the one all-wise and powerful Judge, to whom the secrets of all hearts are known; and on the great day of reckoning we shall be ready to give a good account of our stewardship while here on earth.

With becoming reverence let us supplicate the Divine Grace, whose goodness and power know no bounds, that, on the arrival of the momentous hour, our faith may remove the clouds of doubt, draw aside the sable curtains of the hidden world beyond, and bid Hope sustain and cheer the departing spirit.

—0—

CHAPLAIN:—Most Glorious God! Author of all good, and Giver of all mercy! Pour down Thy blessing upon us, we beseech Thee, and strengthen our solemn engagements with the ties of sincere affection! Endue us with fortitude and resignation in this hour of sorrow, and grant that this dispensation from Thy hands may be sanctified in its results upon the hearts of those who now meet to mourn! May the present instance of mortality draw our attention toward Thee, the only refuge in time of need. Enable us to look with eyes of Faith toward that realm whose skies are never darkened by sorrow; and after our departure hence in peace and in thy favor, may we be received into Thy everlasting kingdom, to enjoy the just reward of a virtuous and well-spent life. Amen!

—0—

BRETHREN:—So mote it be!

—0—

Solemn music may here again be introduced, after which the Master continues.

MASTER:—Our brother has been raised in that blissful Lodge which no time can close, but which will remain open during the boundless ages of eternity. In that Heavenly Sanctuary, the Mystic Light, unmingled with darkness, will reign unbroken and perpetual. There, under the protection of the All-Seeing Eye, amid the smiles of Immutable Love, in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens,—there, my brethren, may Almighty God in His infinite mercy, grant that we may meet again, to part no more.

If showing apron, Master picks up apron from lectern, using both hands on upper corners. When finished with apron lecture, he places it upon lectern along side Sacred Roll.

—or—

Apron may be placed upon table prior to start of Service. If this option is exercised, apron will remain on table throughout entire service, including apron lecture.

—or—

Master goes to side of table, picks up apron by upper corners with both hands, faces audience and repeats next paragraph, then places apron upon table.

The Lambskin Apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason; more ancient than the Golden Fleece or the Roman Eagle, more honorable than the Star or Garter, or any distinction that can be conferred by king, prince, potentate or any other person. By it we are continually reminded of that purity of life and conduct so essentially necessary to gain admission into the Celestial Lodge above where the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe forever presides.

Master then displays Evergreen and holds it while repeating next paragraph, after which he either lays Evergreen on lectern with apron and Sacred Roll or deposits on table remaining along side of table.

This Evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of one illustrious in Masonic history, is an emblem of our enduring faith in the Immortality of the Soul. By it we are reminded that we have an imperishable part within us, which shall survive all earthly existence, and which will never, never die. Through the loving goodness of our

Supreme Grand Master, we may confidently hope that, like this Evergreen, our souls will hereafter flourish in eternal spring.

If option to go to side of table has been chosen, Master remains there for next paragraph.

We shall ever cherish in our hearts the memory of our departed brother and, commending his spirit to Almighty God, we trustingly leave him in the hands of that Beneficent Being who has done all things well; who is glorious in His Holiness, wondrous in His Power, and boundless in His Goodness; and it should always be our endeavor so to live that we too may be found worthy to inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

If option to go to side of table has been chosen, Master returns to lectern.

NOTE: A eulogy may be delivered at this point by Master or any other person, if desired, after which the Master proceeds.

—0—

MASTER:—We extend to the bereaved relatives and friends of our departed brother our sincere sympathy in this hour of sorrow, and we pray that “He who tempers the wind to the shorn Lamb” will give them His divine comfort and consolation, and that they may come to realize that the spirit of our brother is happy in his Father’s house, where “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.”

—0—

The “Committal” is symbolic and shall be included.

Master faces position of Urn or table and repeats the “Committal.”

—or—

Master may proceed to table, bow head, and repeat “Committal.”

—or—

If not previously deposited, Master picks up apron, Sacred Roll and Evergreen, moves to table and places them upon table, delivers "Committal," then takes position at side of table facing audience and remains there for Benediction.

COMMITTAL

MASTER:—Soft and safe to thee, my brother, be thy resting place! Bright and glorious be thy rising from it! Fragrant be the acacia sprig that there shall flourish! May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties o'er thy resting place, and there may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest! Though the winds of Autumn may destroy the loveliness of their existence, yet the destruction is not final, and in the springtime, they shall surely bloom again. So, in the bright morning of the resurrection, thy spirit shall spring into newness of life and expand in immortal beauty, in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear brother, until then, farewell!

CHAPLAIN:—The Lord bless us and keep us! The Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us! The Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace! Amen!

—0—

BRETHREN:—So mote it be!

—0—

This concludes the Memorial Service.

—0—