

MEMORIAL SERVICE

(Ceremony is introduced by appropriate organ music followed by a hymn sung by the chapter chorus.)

PRESIDENT: Brothers and friends, we are gathered here for a sacred ceremony: To mourn the loss of hundreds of our departed brothers and to pay honor to men whose memory we shall ever cherish. Many of these brothers have given all they possessed that we might continue to gather together in the spirit of fraternity and to exemplify the teachings of the Bond. Their hearts are stilled, their lips sealed. Life has departed. They are beyond the petty hatreds, jealousies, deceptions, and shortcomings of mortals. They have rejoined our departed brothers - Morrison, Wilson, and all the rest. They have gone forever to the place where separation and death are unknown. From this point on, in the rest of the days of our lives, may we always exemplify the teachings of the Bond, and live lives worthy of the sacrifices made by those whose deaths we solemnly mourn today. The chaplain will now lead us in prayer.

(Bow heads.)

CHAPLAIN: Almighty God, our father, we do not presume to claim an understanding of your purposes, beyond the images of your word in the prophets and in Christ, your son. But by those images and by the needs and instincts of our hearts, we do know and believe your assured love and your saving purpose. We ask that you give to all of our brothers who have passed from our company since our last convention the full light of your eternal presence in the Chapter Grand. Open to them the vision we all long for and the freedom we now know in part. May we always experience their continued fellowship in you and realize that there is no separation between them and us, even though we cannot communicate in the flesh. In particular, we remember before you this day:

(Names of those being remembered)

Welcome them all to a place of peace and light and accept the labors of their lives offered for the building of your kingdom on earth and the building up of each one of us into the perfect body that is Christ's. Look upon us, Savior and our strength, gathered together at this convention, and give to each of us the power to remember that your son's dying destroyed our death and that by being raised up he has given us new life. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

(The Chaplain now reads from Holy Scripture.)

The selection below is taken from

1 Corinthians 15. Other selections may be substituted at the discretion of the Chaplain.

Suggestions are:

Romans 8, 12-23

2 Corinthians 4, 10 - 5, 1.

2 Corinthians 5, 1-10

1 Thessalonians 4, 13-18)

CHAPLAIN: Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised: If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end when he delivers the Kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish man! What you sow does not come to live unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or some other grain. But as God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

PRESIDENT: Brothers, we are all travelers here, just as men before us were. For each man a brief span of earthly existence and feverish activity abruptly ends. This wreath of flowers

(Lays wreath of carnations on the table)

reminds us that life is short and that death is certain. It once again serves as a reminder that though many of us gathered here are now in the bloom of youth, all of us before long shall wither and die like the flowers of the field. The evergreen which I hold is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. It reminds us that even though we shall take our places beside our departed brothers, yet, through our belief in the mercy of God, we may confidently hope that we may enter with them into life triumphant.

(The President lays a sprig of evergreen on the altar.)

Until we meet in death.

In Coelo Quies Est.

CHAPLAIN: In Coelo Quies Est. May the souls of our brothers departed through God's mercy rest in peace, and may light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

Let us pray. O Almighty God, you have called us to believe in you by showing us glimpses of your life through the good examples of our brothers whom we remember this day. We ask that the encouragement of their example may aid us in running the race that is set before us, so that through your mercy and love we may attain everlasting life. We ask that you, O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us

a holy rest. May the peace of God which passes all understanding guard our hearts in Christ, both now and in the life everlasting. Amen.

(Hymn: The Lord's Prayer by the organist)

PRESIDENT: I now declare this memorial service ended.

(Closing music by organist)