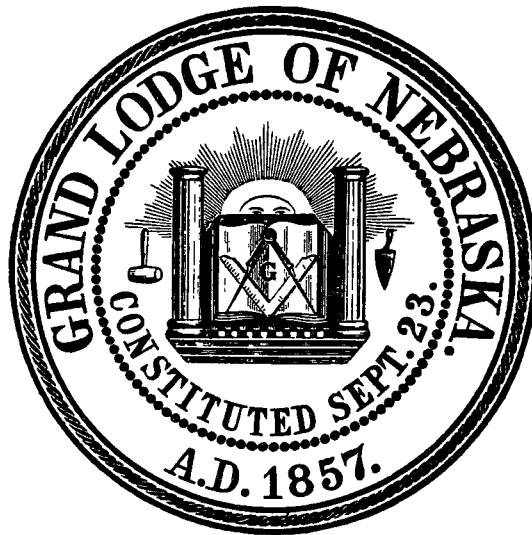

Ceremonies



*Ancient, Free
& Accepted Masons
of Nebraska*

Ceremonies

of the

Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons

of Nebraska

Originally compiled – 1909

Revised – 1962

Revised – 1991

Revised – 1993

Published by Order of the
Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska

Preface

Lincoln, Nebraska

May 10, 1991

To the Members of the Masonic Fraternity within the Grand Jurisdiction of Nebraska:

Brethren:

In the revisions of the ceremonies, your committee has generally followed the ceremonies (previously combined in the same publication as the Monitor) dating from 1909.

We have made revisions or additions only where modern conditions appeared to justify some change. The intent was to modernize without losing any of the beauty or solemnity of the rites and rituals.

The committee appreciates the invaluable assistance of the following brethren who actively participated in this revision: W.: Augustine S. "Gus" Scolaro, Grand Custodian; R.: W.: James L. "Sonny" Eatmon, Deputy Grand Master; W.: Kenneth G. Fleming, Grand Marshal; M.: W.: Wayne G. Luenenborg, Past Grand Master; and W.: Jerry L. Rittenburg, Grand Senior Deacon.

Your committee submits the result of its labors in the hope that it will meet with the approval and expectations of the Craft.

Committee on Nebraska Work

M.: W.: Charles W. Amidon, PGM, 281/327,

Chairman

M.: W.: T. Leo Stines, PGM, 36/323

M.: W.: John M. McHenry, PGM, 19

Office of the Grand Master

Lincoln, Nebraska

May 10, 1991

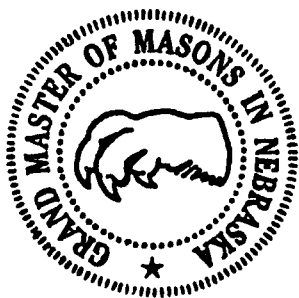
To the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of all Subordinate Lodges within the Jurisdiction of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska:

Greetings:

WHEREAS at the One Hundred Thirty-Fourth Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, held in Grand Island on February 1 and 2, 1991, the assembled delegates by their vote approved ;the proposed revisions to the ceremonies of this Grand Jurisdiction as prepared and submitted by the Committee on Nebraska Work.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James N. DeMoss, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska make known and direct that the ceremonies as revised by the Committee on Work, consisting of M.:W.: Charles W. Amidon, PGM, as Chairman; and M.:W.: T. Leo Stines, PGM and M.:W.: Wayne G. Luenenborg, PGM, members, is the adopted ceremonial work for all lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction and that from and after December 31, 1991, it shall be unlawful in this Grand Jurisdiction to use in whole or in part, any ceremony, except as is provided for in the revised ceremonies on February 2, 1991.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 10th day of May, 1991, in the City of Lincoln, Nebraska.




JAMES N. DeMOSS
Grand Master

Table of Contents

A Guide for Balloting on Petitions	1
Instituting a Lodge Under Dispensation.....	3
Constituting a Chartered Lodge	5
Laying of Cornerstones.....	11
Dedication of Masonic Temple	19
Reception of Visitors	28
Installation of Officers of Subordinate Lodge	34
Installation of Grand Lodge Officers	44
Year Pin Presentations.....	50
Masonic Funeral Service	56
Masonic Memorial Service	61
Masonic Calendar & Rules for Masonic Dates.....	66

A Guide for Balloting on Petitions

After the report of the Investigating Committee has been read, the Worshipful Master shall proceed with the balloting. The Worshipful Master directs the Senior Deacon to deliver the ballot box to the East. The Worshipful Master then examines the ballot box to ascertain that it contains enough white balls and black cubes for every member present to vote. The Worshipful Master then makes the following announcement:

Brethren, we are about to ballot on the petition of Mr. _____ to receive the degrees of Masonry in this lodge. White balls elect and black cubes reject. Remember your obligation and vote for the good of Masonry.

The Worshipful Master casts the first ballot and the Senior Deacon carries the ballot box to each member, who will rise to ballot, beginning with the member on the left of the Worshipful Master, and continuing to the West via the south marching line. Proceeding north, on the west marching line, the Senior Deacon collects the Senior Warden's ballot and those of any other members in the West. He then continues east, by way of the north marching line, collecting ballots from every member. After the Senior Deacon collects the ballot, he then carries the ballot box, via the south marching line, to the Altar and holds the box above the Altar to indicate the sanctity of the ballot. The Worshipful Master asks:

Has every member present, who is entitled to do so, balloted?

The Senior Deacon responds:

All present, who are entitled to do so, have balloted, Worshipful Master.

The Worshipful Master then says:

I declare the ballot closed, Brother Senior Deacon. Carry the ballot to the South, West, and East.

The Senior Deacon carries the ballot box to the Junior Warden, sets it on his pedestal, and turns around to face the north. After the Junior Warden examines the contents, the Senior Deacon carries the ballot box to the Senior Warden, via the south and west marching lines. The Senior Deacon sets the ballot box on the pedestal and turns to face the east. When the Senior Warden has completed his examination the Senior Deacon carries the ballot box to the East, using the west, north and east marching lines. On reaching the East, the Senior Deacon sets the ballot box on the Master's pedestal and is then seated. The Worshipful Master examines the ballot and then asks:

Brother Junior Warden, (*Worshipful Master raps once*) how do you find the ballot in the South?

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

The Junior Warden rises and says:

I find the ballot clear in the South, Worshipful Master.

OR

I find the ballot not clear in the South, Worshipful Master.

(The ballot is either "clear" or "not clear". It is never "dark", "black" or "cloudy".)

The Worshipful Master then asks the Senior Warden:

Brother Senior Warden, *(Worshipful Master raps once)* how do you find the ballot in the West?

The Senior Warden rises and says:

I find the ballot clear in the West, Worshipful Master.

OR

I find the ballot not clear in the West, Worshipful Master.

The Worshipful Master then makes one of these three declarations.

And I find the ballot clear in the East. Brethren, by your ballot you have elected Mr. _____ to receive the degrees of Masonry in this lodge.

(The Worshipful Master may order the ballot spread a second, or even a third time, if he has reason to believe a ballot has been cast by mistake.)

OR

And I find the ballot not clear in the East. Brethren, in case of any possible error in voting, we will proceed to re-ballot on the petition of Mr. _____. Brother Senior Deacon, you will again present the ballot box to the membership. Brethren, we are about to reballot on the petition of Mr. _____ to receive the degrees of Masonry in this lodge. White balls elect and black cubes reject. Remember your obligation and vote for the good of Masonry.

OR

And I find the ballot not clear in the East. Brethren, by your ballot you have rejected the petition of Mr. _____ to receive the degrees of Masonry in this lodge. Brother Secretary, you will so notify the petitioner in writing.

Once the petitioner has been declared rejected, the balloting is finished.

The Worshipful Master will destroy the ballot.

No one may be excused from voting.

Instituting a Lodge Under Dispensation

The dispensation for the establishment of a new lodge is issued by the Grand Master, and is sent to the brother named therein as Master, who should promptly acknowledge receipt thereof to the Grand Master. The members named in the dispensation are then notified by the Master to assemble in their lodge room at the time determined upon.

If desired, the ceremonies may be public. If the Grand Master cannot attend, he may deputize some competent Past Master to institute the new lodge, or the ceremony may be omitted.

After the brethren are assembled, the instituting officer will assume the East. He then causes the dispensation to be read, after which, the names of the officers appointed by the Master of the new lodge will be announced, together with the names of the Treasurer and Secretary selected by the brethren. As these names are called, the officers will form in line west of the Altar and facing the East, the Master on the south end of the line, the instituting officer will invest each officer with his jewel. The Master named in the dispensation will then be seated in the East, on the right of the instituting officer. The Wardens and other officers will take their respective stations. These movements should be accompanied with music if convenient. If the ceremony is private, the instituting officer will then open the lodge in the Master Mason degree.

Charge to the Master

The instituting officer calls up the Worshipful Master by one rap, and says:

The Grand Lodge having committed to your care the superintendence and government of the brethren who are to compose this new lodge, you cannot be insensible of the obligations which devolve on you as their head, nor of your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties pertaining to your appointment. By a diligent observance of the laws of our Grand Lodge, ancient landmarks, and regulations of Masonry, and above all, the Holy Scriptures, which are given as a rule and a guide to your faith, you will be enabled to merit the confidence reposed in you.

Charge to the Wardens

Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens (*who are called up by two raps*): You should be examples of good order and regularity, for it is only by a due regard to the laws, in your own conduct, that you can expect obedience to them from others. You are assiduously to assist the Master in diffusing light and imparting knowledge to all whom he shall place under your care. In the absence of the Master, you will succeed to higher duties; your acquirements must therefore be such that the Craft may never suffer for want of proper instruction. From the spirit which you have hitherto evinced, I entertain no doubt that your future conduct will be such as to merit the approval of your brethren and the testimony of a good conscience.

Charge to the Brethren of the Lodge

Brethren of _____ Lodge U.D. (*who are called up by three raps*): You have been formed under a dispensation into a lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, and are empowered to confer the several degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, and to transact the necessary business incident thereto. Your authority is strictly limited by the law of the Grand Lodge, A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska, and your continuance as a lodge under dispensation is subject to the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, who may, at any time, revoke the authority under which you are now working.

Lodges are first instituted under dispensation as a test of the ability of the officers and brethren to properly perform the duties incumbent upon them; and, if, after due trial, they are found worthy and well qualified, they are constituted and formed into regular lodges, with full power to work under charters.

I charge you to guard well the portals of this lodge, as we have a right to know that every Freemason you create is entitled to be greeted by the Fraternity as a friend and brother wheresoever dispersed throughout the globe.

Proclamation

Grand Master: In the name, and by the authority, of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, I do proclaim that _____ Lodge U.D. of _____ has been duly instituted in conformity to the rites of our institution and the charges of our ancient and honorable Fraternity, and may our Father prosper, direct, and counsel you in all your doings.

Benediction

(By Installing Officer or Chaplain)

The Lord bless you, and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The instituting officer may conclude with such personal instructions as he deems proper for the occasion; and, handing to the Worshipful Master the dispensation and the gavel of authority, he will resign the chair, and take the place vacated by the Master. The brethren are seated and the lodge proceeds with its business. The Secretary will copy the dispensation into the records, and make full and complete report of all proceedings.

For proper prayers in opening and closing lodge see the monitor.

Constituting a Chartered Lodge

Every dispensation for the formation of a lodge expires on the day therein designated; and, after the time of probation expires, the petitioners cannot convene as a lodge of Masons, until the Grand Lodge shall have granted a charter to the petitioners, or continued the dispensation. If the prayer of the petitioners is granted, a charter will be issued; but, the brethren to whom it is issued cannot convene under its authority until they have been constituted into a regular lodge, and the officers installed.

The ceremony of constituting a lodge is conducted by the Grand Master, in person, or by some brother acting under written authority from him. The ceremony may be either public or private; if the latter, the lodge will be opened in the Master Mason Degree.

At the time appointed, the Grand Master, or his proxy, will open an Occasional Grand Lodge. In the absence of Grand Officers, Past Masters, as far as practicable, should be selected to fill the stations. The brethren who are to compose the new lodge will assemble in their temple, properly clothed. The officers will occupy seats on the south side of the lodge room, extending from the Secretary's table on a line running west; the Worshipful Master will be seated temporarily, in the East, and will appoint a brother to act as Marshal for the new lodge during the ceremonies.

The Worshipful Master will instruct the Marshal of the lodge to repair to the apartment of the Grand Lodge, and inform the Most Worshipful Grand Master that:

A number of brethren, duly instructed in the mysteries of Freemasonry, having assembled together at stated periods, by virtue of a dispensation granted them for that purpose; and their proceedings having received the approbation of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, and having been granted a charter, now desire to be consecrated and constituted into a regular lodge, under the name of _____ Lodge No. __, and have their officers installed agreeably to the ancient usages and customs of the Craft, for which purpose they are now met, and await the pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The acting Marshal retires and delivers the message to the Grand Master, using the exact wording as the Master.

Grand Master: It is well; return and inform the brethren that, in due time, we will comply with their request.

Upon the retirement of the Marshal, the Grand Lodge is formed in procession under the direction of the Grand Marshal, in the following order:

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Grand Marshal

Grand Tyler
(drawn sword)

Grand Junior Steward
(carrying rod)

Grand Senior Steward
(carrying rod)

The Symbol of the Lodge, Covered
(carried by four brethren)

Grand Chaplain
(carrying Bible, Square, and Compass)

Grand Historian

Grand Orator

Grand Custodian

Grand Secretary

Grand Junior Warden
(carrying vessel of corn)

Grand Senior Warden
(carrying vessel of wine)

Deputy Grand Master
(carrying vessel of oil)

Book Of Constitutions
(carried by oldest Past Master present)

Grand Junior Deacon
(carrying rod)

Grand Senior Deacon
(carrying rod)

Grand Master

When Masonic services are performed by the Grand Master they are said to be done in Ample Form; if by the Deputy, in Due Form; and if by any other brother, in Form.

The Grand Lodge will now move to the lodge room. Upon their entrance, the Worshipful Master will call up the brethren and remove his hat.

The procession moves towards the East, passing the Altar on the west and north, during which there may be appropriate music. When the Grand Marshal reaches the foot of the dais, the procession halts. The Symbol of the Lodge will be placed on a table east of the Altar, the Great Lights will be placed on the Altar, and the vessels containing the elements of consecration will be placed on the Symbol of the Lodge.

The officers of the Grand Lodge will then open inward. The Grand Tyler and Grand Marshal will move between the lines, and the Grand Marshal will conduct the Grand Master to the East, preceded by the Grand Tyler, who stops at the foot of the dais, and the Past Master, who places the Book of Constitutions on the pedestal and returns to his place in the line.

The Worshipful Master introduces the Grand Master and directs that he be given the Grand Honors, by three times three. The Worshipful Master takes his place with the other officers to be installed. The Grand Marshal conducts the Grand Lodge officers to their seats. The Grand Master seats the brethren. The Deputy Grand Master asks the members of the new lodge to rise and addresses the Grand Master:

Deputy Grand Master: Most Worshipful Grand Master, a number of brethren who are now before you, duly instructed in the mysteries of Masonry, having assembled together at stated periods, by virtue of a dispensation granted for that purpose, do now desire to be constituted into a regular lodge.

Grand Master: It is well, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.

The Grand Master seats the brethren, and directs the Grand Secretary to read the Charter in full.

Grand Master: The Grand Lodge having granted a Charter to the brethren of this new lodge, establishing and confirming them in the rights and privileges of a regularly constituted lodge, we shall now proceed with these important ceremonies. Brother Grand Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

The Grand Master raises the Lodge.

The Grand Chaplain will go to the altar and give the following, or some suitable prayer.

Grand Chaplain: Great, Adorable, and Supreme Being, we praise Thee for all Thy mercies; and especially, for giving us desires to enjoy, and powers of enjoying the pleasures of society. The affections which Thou hast implanted in us, and which we cannot destroy without violence to our nature, are among the chief blessings which Thy wisdom hath bestowed upon us. Help us duly to improve all our powers to the promotion of Thy glory in this world, and the good of our fellow man. May we be active under Thy devine light and dwell in Thy truth. Extend this favor to us who are now entering into a fraternal compact under peculiar obligations: enable us to be faithful to Thee; faithful to our callings in life; faithful in all our duties to the Craft; and faithful to each other as members of this Fraternity. Amen.

Response By Brethren: So mote it be.

Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, you will direct the brethren of this new Lodge to their proper stations and places and reform the Grand Officers in procession.

The Grand Marshal will make a single circuit of the Lodge room followed by the Lodge officers. Each officer will drop out of line at his station or place and remain standing until all are seated by a nod from the Grand Marshal.

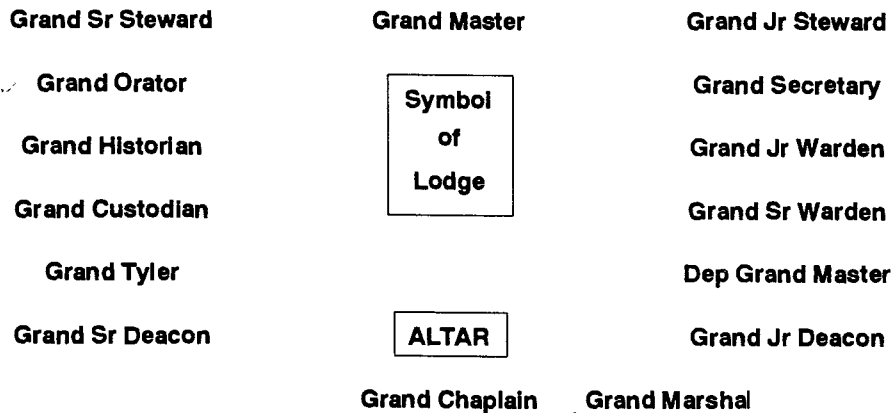
Grand Lodge of Nebraska

The Grand Marshal will then form the Grand Officers in a line from the East on the north side of the Altar in the following order:

- Grand Junior Deacon*
- Deputy Grand Master*
- Grand Senior Warden*
- Grand Junior Warden*
- Grand Secretary*
- Grand Junior Steward*
- Grand Senior Steward*
- Grand Orator*
- Grand Historian*
- Grand Custodian*
- Grand Tyler*
- Grand Senior Deacon*

When the line has been formed the Grand Junior Deacon will lead the officers once about the Altar, and then stop when he arrives on the south side of the Altar. The Grand Master descends from the dais to the east of the Symbol of the Lodge. The Grand Marshal, slowly, and with reverence, uncovers the Symbol of the Lodge and then conducts the Grand Chaplain to the west of the Altar.

The Officers should be in the following positions:



Grand Chaplain: Great Architect of the Universe! Maker and Ruler of the world; Deign from Thy celestial temple, from the realms of light and glory, to bless us in all the purposes of our present assembly! We humbly invoke Thee to give us at this, and at all times, wisdom in all our doings, strength of mind in all our difficulties, and the beauty of harmony in all our communications. Permit us, great Source of love and happiness, to consecrate this lodge to Thine honor and glory. Amen.

Response By Brethren: So mote it be.

Grand Junior Warden: *(From west of the Symbol of the Lodge)* Most Worshipful Grand Master, in the consecration of Masonic Lodges, it has been the custom to pour corn upon the lodge, as an emblem of nourishment.

Grand Junior Warden hands vessel of corn to the Grand Master.

Grand Master: I scatter this corn as an emblem of nourishment. May the Giver of every good and perfect gift strengthen this lodge in all its philanthropic undertakings.

Grand Senior Warden: *(From west of the Symbol of Lodge.)* Most Worshipful Grand Master, Wine, the emblem of refreshment, having been used by our ancient brethren in the ceremonies of consecration, I present to you this vessel of wine, to be used according to ancient Masonic form.

Grand Senior Warden hands vessel of wine to the Grand Master.

Grand Master: I pour out this wine, as an emblem of refreshment. May this lodge continually be refreshed at the pure fountain of Masonic virtue.

Deputy Grand Master: *(From west of the Symbol of Lodge)* I present to you, to be used according to ancient custom, this vessel of oil, an emblem of that joy which should animate every bosom on the completion of any important undertaking.

Deputy Grand Master hands vessel of oil to the Grand Master.

Grand Master: I pour out this oil as an emblem of joy. May the Supreme Ruler of the Universe preserve this lodge in peace, and vouchsafe to it every blessing.

Grand Master: In the name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, I now dedicate, constitute and form you, my beloved brethren, into a regular lodge, under the name and number of _____ Lodge No. ____, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons. From henceforth, we empower you to meet as a regular lodge, constituted in conformity to the rites of our institution, and the charges of our ancient and honorable Fraternity; and may the Supreme Architect of the Universe prosper, direct, and counsel you in all your doings. Amen.

Response By Brethren: So mote it be.

The Grand Officers, under the direction of the Grand Marshal, will give the Grand Honors by three times three. The Grand Marshal will then, slowly, and with reverence, cover the Symbol of the Lodge.

The Grand Master will resume his station and the other officers will take their respective stations and places and remain standing.

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, you will make proclamation that _____ Lodge No. ___ Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, has been duly constituted.

Grand Marshal: By order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, I do hereby proclaim, that _____ Lodge No. ___, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons has been regularly constituted, this ___ day of _____ A.L. 59___, and, as such, is duly registered in the records of the Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska. This proclamation is made from the East (*Grand Master raps once*), from the West (*Grand Senior Warden raps once*), and from the South (*Grand Junior Warden raps once*), Once (*Grand Junior Warden raps once*), Twice (*Grand Senior Warden raps twice*), Thrice (*Grand Master raps thrice*). All interested take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

This ceremony may be followed by orations or such program as may be appropriate.

Laying of Cornerstones

This ceremony is conducted only by the Grand Master, in person, or by some brother acting for him, under special written authority, assisted by the Officers of an Occasional Grand Lodge, and such of the Craft as may be invited.

No cornerstone should be laid with Masonic ceremonies, except for those buildings which are to be used for Masonic purposes, or acknowledged public structures; and then, only by special request of the proper authorities, addressed to the Grand Master.

The cornerstone must be of natural stone, of suitable size and dimensions to correspond with the building, and should be placed in the northeast corner, if possible.

On the face or front side of the stone should be cut:

Laid by the Grand Lodge, A.:F.:. & A.:M.: of Nebraska
(month) (day) A.D. 19__ A.L. 59__,
(Title) (Name), Grand Master.

Civil officials may be invited to attend.

The lodge, or lodges, in the place where the building is to be erected, may invite such neighboring lodges and other Masonic bodies as they may deem proper.

The public should also be invited to attend.

Special instructions will be given by the Grand Marshal, upon application, relative to the laying of a cornerstone, and his instructions should be strictly followed.

In all public processions, the brethren should appear properly clothed. Officers should wear their jewels.

At the time appointed for the ceremony, a sufficient number of brethren to act as Grand Officers are convened in a suitable place, where an Occasional Grand Lodge will be opened, and proper instructions given by the Grand Master; after which the officers of the Grand Lodge, under the direction of the Grand Marshal, will form in procession.

Procession should be in the following order:

Grand Marshal

Grand Standard Bearer
(carrying U.S. Flag)

Grand Secretary
(carrying list of articles)

Grand Custodian
(in charge of box)

Grand Orator

Grand Junlor Warden

Grand Senior Warden

Deputy Grand Master

Grand Chaplain

Grand Sword Bearer
(carrying drawn sword)

Grand Junior Steward
(rod optional)

Grand Senlor Steward
(rod optional)

Grand Junlor Deacon
(rod optional)

Grand Senior Deacon
(rod optional)

Principle Architect

Grand Tyler
(with drawn sword)

Book Of Constitutions

Grand Master

If a color guard has already placed the U.S. Flag, the Grand Standard Bearer will carry the Grand Lodge Banner. If a color guard has already placed the U.S. Flag, and the Grand Lodge Banner is not present, the Grand Standard Bearer and the Grand Sword Bearer will be eliminated from the procession.

The procession thus formed will proceed to join the general procession, if any, and march in the rear, to the place where the ceremony is to be performed.

Whenever Knights Templar are present in uniform, they should act as an escort, or guard of honor to the Grand Lodge. When there are two or more commanderies of Knights Templar present, the local commandery, if any, will act as escort to the Grand Lodge; otherwise, the oldest commandery present will have preference. Other commanderies will act in the same capacity to the other bodies of the Masonic Fraternity which may be in the procession. Knights Templar, as a special escort to the Grand Lodge, will march on either side of the Grand Lodge. The main body of Knights Templar will march in front of the Grand Lodge.

When a procession is composed of others than the officers of the Grand Lodge, and includes any or all of the bodies named below it should be formed in the following order:

- 1) *Music*
- 2) *Military*
- 3) *Citizens*
- 4) *Societies and Organizations*
- 5) *Civil Officers*
- 6) *Master Masons*
- 7) *Grand Lodge, in order before named, with Knights Templar escort*

No banners or inscriptions of a political or sectarian character should be allowed in the procession.

When the head of the procession reaches the platform, it will open to the right and left, facing inward. The Grand Marshal will wait until the Flag has been placed by the Grand Standard Bearer and the Grand Sword Bearer, then proceed back through the lines and escort the Grand Master to the podium, preceded by the Grand Tyler and the carrier of the Book of Constitutions, who will place the Book of Constitutions on the podium. The Grand Marshal will then take his place, after which, the rest of the Grand Lodge Officers will proceed in single file to their places.

Suggested Seating Arrangement For Grand Lodge Officers

FlagBearer	Sword Bearer	Stone						
GrMar		PrinArch	GrJrDeac	GrSrDeac	GrJrStew	GrSrStew	BkCnst	GrTyler
GrMast		GrChap	DepGrMast	GrSrWard	GrJrWard	GrOrat	GrCust	GrSecr

Each site of a Cornerstone ceremony is unique and the seating arrangement may be altered at the discretion of the Grand Marshal.

When the Grand Lodge Officers are in position and the music has stopped, the Grand Master may seat the Officers and guests.

The stone should be suspended about six feet from its bed by a derrick having a suitable arrangement for slowly lowering it to its place.

If the building to be erected is one for public purposes, for example, a church, a court house, etc, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners or other officials appointed for its erection will briefly address the Grand Master, stating the purposes for which the building is designed, and requesting that the cornerstone be laid according to ancient forms and ceremonies of the Craft. If the building is intended for Masonic purposes, the address will be varied according to circumstances.

Requester: Most Worshipful Grand Master, at the request of the (*give name of entity for whom building is being constructed*), I now ask that you, as Grand Master of Masons, lay the cornerstone of this _____ in accordance with Masonic custom and usage.

Grand Master: From time immemorial, it has been the custom of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons to lay, when requested to do so,

with their ancient forms, the cornerstones of buildings erected for the worship of God, for educational purposes, or charitable purposes, or for the purpose of the administration of justice and free government, and of no other buildings. This cornerstone, therefore, we may lay in accordance with our law, and gladly do so, testifying thereby our obedience to the law and our desire to show publicly our respect for the government under which we live.

The teachings of Freemasonry inculcate that, in all our works, great or small, begun and finished, we should seek the aid of Almighty God. It is our first duty, therefore, to invoke the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe upon the work in which we are about to engage. I therefore command the utmost silence, and call upon all to unite with our brother, the Grand Chaplain, in an address to the Throne of Grace.

Grand Master calls up the brethren, while the Grand Chaplain reads Psalms 111, Verses 2 through 4 and Verse 10.

Grand Chaplain: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who have pleasure in them. Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. He has caused His wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who practice it. His praise endures forever.

Let us pray.

Almighty God! Who hath given us grace at this time, with one accord, to make our common supplications unto Thee, and dost promise that where two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou will grant their request; fulfill now, O Lord! the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world, knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The Grand Master seats the brethren. An ode may now be sung.

Grand Master: Worshipful Grand Custodian, it has ever been the custom, on occasions like the present, to deposit within a cavity in the stone, certain memorials of the period in which it was erected; so that, in the lapse of age, if the fury of the elements, or the slow but certain ravages of time, should lay bare its foundation, an enduring record may be found by succeeding generations, to bear testimony to the energy, industry, and culture of our time. Has such a deposit been prepared?

Grand Custodian: It has, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the various articles of which it is composed are safely enclosed within the casket now before you.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, you will read for the information of the brethren and others here assembled, a record of the contents of the casket.

The Grand Secretary reads a list of the articles contained in the casket.

Grand Master: Worshipful Grand Custodian, you will now deposit the casket in the cavity, and may the Great Architect of the Universe, in His wisdom, grant that ages on ages shall pass away ere it again be seen of men.

The Grand Custodian will place the casket in the cavity prepared. During this ceremony there may be instrumental music.

Grand Custodian: Most Worshipful Grand Master, your orders have been duly executed.

Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, you will deliver the working tools to the proper officers.

The Grand Marshal hands the Square, Level and Plumb to the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden, respectively.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Brethren, you will receive these working tools. With your assistance and that of the Craft, I will now proceed to lay the cornerstone of this edifice, according to the custom of our Fraternity. Brother Grand Marshal, you will direct the Craftsmen to furnish the cement, and prepare to lower the stone.

The Grand Marshal, after making certain the brethren assigned to these duties are in place, makes this report:

Grand Marshal: All is in readiness, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The Grand Master will then spread a portion of the cement before the first downward movement. The Grand Master raises the brethren. The stone is then lowered slowly by three distinct movements, accompanied by appropriate music. At the end of each movement, the Grand Honors are given by all the brethren under the direction of the Grand Marshal. When the stone is in place, the Grand Master will seat the brethren.

An appropriate song may now be sung.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper implement of your office?

Deputy Grand Master: The Square.

Grand Master: What are its moral and Masonic uses?

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Deputy Grand Master: Morally, it teaches us to square our actions by the square of virtue, and by it, we prove our work.

Grand Master: Apply the implement of your office to those portions of the cornerstone which should be square, and make report.

The square is applied to the four upper corners.

Deputy Grand Master: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I find the stone to be square. The craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden, what is the proper implement of your office?

Grand Senior Warden: The Level.

Grand Master: What are its moral and Masonic uses?

Grand Senior Warden: Morally, it teaches equality, and by it, we prove our work.

Grand Master: Apply the implement of your office to that portion of the cornerstone that, should be level, and make report.

The level is applied to the top surface of the stone.

Grand Senior Warden: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I find the stone to be level. The craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden, what is the proper implement of your office?

Grand Junior Warden: The Plumb.

Grand Master: What are its moral and Masonic uses?

Grand Junior Warden: Morally, it teaches rectitude of conduct, and by it, we prove our work.

Grand Master: Apply the implement of your office to those portions of the cornerstone which should be plumb, and make report.

The Plumb is applied to the sides of the stone.

Grand Junior Warden: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I find the stone to be plumb. The craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master: This cornerstone has been tested by the proper implements of Masonry. I find that the Craftsmen have skillfully and faithfully done their duty; and I do declare

the stone to be well formed, true, and trusty, correctly proved, and truly laid, according to the rules of our Ancient Craft. May this building be constructed and completed amid the blessings of Plenty, Health, and Peace.

Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, you will present the elements of consecration to the proper officers.

The Grand Marshal presents the vessel of corn to the Grand Junior Warden, the wine to the Grand Senior Warden, and the oil to the Deputy Grand Master.

The Grand Junior Warden advances with the corn, scattering it on the stone and says:

I scatter this corn as an emblem of Plenty; may the blessings of bounteous heaven be showered upon us, and upon all like patriotic and important undertakings, and inspire the hearts of the people with Virtue, Wisdom, and Gratitude.

The Grand Senior Warden advances with the wine, pouring it on the stone, saying:

I pour this wine as an emblem of Joy and Gladness. May the Great Ruler of the Universe bless and prosper our national, state, and city governments, preserve the Union of the States in Harmony and Brotherly Love, which shall endure through all time.

The Deputy Grand Master advances with the vessel of oil, pouring it on the stone, saying:

I pour this oil as an emblem of Peace; may its blessings abide with us continually; and may the God of Heaven and Earth shelter and protect the widow and orphan, and vouchsafe to them, and to the bereaved, the afflicted, and the sorrowing, everywhere, the enjoyment of every good and perfect gift.

The Grand Master, extending his hands, pronounces the following invocation:

May Corn, Wine and Oil, and all the necessities of life, abound among men throughout the world. May the blessing of Almighty God be upon this undertaking. May He protect the workmen from accident. May this structure, having been planned with wisdom, be supported by strength and adorned with beauty, and may it be preserved to the latest ages, a monument to the energy and liberality of its founders. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The stone may now be decorated with flowers; during which an ode may be sung.

Grand Master (*addressing the Principal Architect*): Worthy Sir (or brother) having thus, as Grand Master of Masons, laid the cornerstone of this structure, I now return to you these implements of operative Masonry, (*Grand Marshal presents Square, Level and*

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Plumb) having full confidence in your skill and ability to perform the important duties confided to you, to the satisfaction of those who have entrusted you with their fulfillment.

Grand Master: In compliance with the request of the proper authorities, the cornerstone of the _____ building (to be) erected on this site has been laid in accordance with the ancient ceremonies of the Craft. Brother Grand Marshal, you will make proclamation thereof.

Grand Marshal: In the name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, I now proclaim that the cornerstone of the structure (to be) here erected has this day been found true and trusty, and laid in Ample Form, according to the old customs, by the Grand Master of Masons. This proclamation is made from the East, (*one blast of the bugle*) from the West, (*two blasts of the bugle*) from the North, (*three blasts of the bugle*) and from the South, (*four blasts of the bugle*) that all persons having due notice may govern themselves accordingly.

Suitable music may now be played or sung. An oration will be delivered by the Grand Orator or some other brother appointed by the Grand Master.

Grand Master: The benediction will now be pronounced by our brother, the Grand Chaplain.

Grand Chaplain: Glory be to God on high, on earth peace and goodwill toward men! O Lord, We most heartily beseech Thee with Thy favor to behold and bless this assemblage; pour down Thy mercies, like the dew that falls upon the mountains, upon Thy servants engaged in the solemn ceremonies of this day. Bless, we pray Thee, all the workmen who (were) (shall be) engaged in the erection of this edifice; keep them from all forms of accident and harm; grant them health and prosperity in life, and finally, we hope, after this life, through Thy mercy and forgiveness, to attain everlasting joy and felicity in Thy bright mansion, in Thy Holy Temple, not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. Amen and Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The Grand Master dismisses the assemblage.

Dedication of Masonic Temples

Every Temple or room owned by the Masonic Fraternity and used for Masonic purposes should be dedicated.

The ceremony must be conducted by the Grand Master or by a brother acting for him under special written authority. The ceremony may be conducted in public or private. Except as herein provided, all floor movements shall be the same as the floor movements of the degree work of Ancient Craft Masonry as promulgated in this Grand Jurisdiction.

At the time appointed, a lodge of Master Masons will be opened in form. A sufficient number of brethren to act as Grand Officers will assemble in a convenient area near the lodge room that is to be dedicated. An Occasional Grand Lodge will be opened. The brethren of the lodge and their visiting brethren should be clothed, the officers wearing their respective jewels and in their usual stations and places. There should be a small stand placed midway between the Altar and the East on which to place the Symbol of the Lodge.

When all is in readiness the Worshipful Master will say:

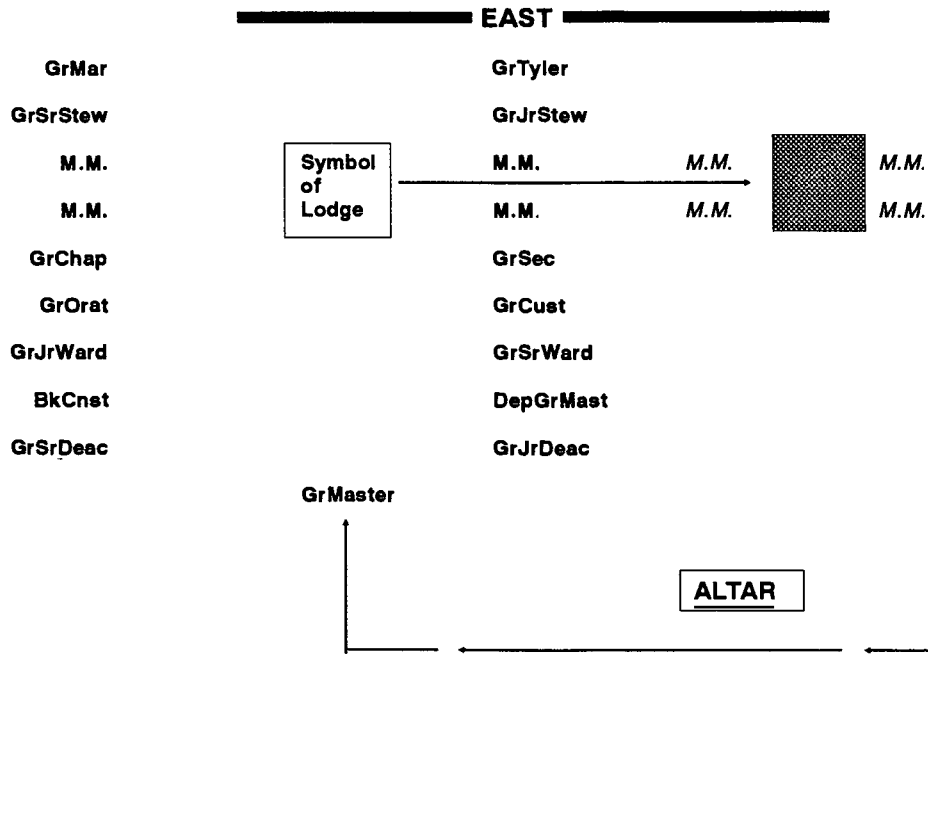
Worshipful Master: Brother Senior Deacon, you will proceed to the reception room and inform the Most Worshipful Grand Master that the brethren of _____ Lodge No. ___ are prepared to receive the officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, and await his pleasure.

Senior Deacon: *(after retiring to reception room)* Most Worshipful Grand Master, the brethren of _____ Lodge No. ___, being animated with a desire of promoting the honor and interest of the Craft, have, at great pains and expense, erected a Masonic Temple for their convenience and accommodation. They are now desirous that the same should be examined by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge; and, if it should meet its approbation, it should be solemnly dedicated to Masonic purposes agreeable to ancient form.

Grand Master: Inform the Worshipful Master and brethren that the Grand Lodge is in attendance and its' procession is ready to be received.

The procession will move into the Lodge room. When the head of the procession enters the door, the Worshipful Master will call up the brethren. The procession moves toward the East, passing west and north of the Altar, during which there should be instrumental music. When the Grand Tyler and Grand Marshal reach the foot of the dais in the East, the Symbol of the Lodge will be placed upon the stand or table east of the Altar. The Grand Officers will then open to the right and left, facing inward. The Worshipful Master will call on all the brethren present to join in receiving the Grand Master with the Grand Honors, by three times three.

Procession as it Enters Lodge Room



The Grand Marshal and Grand Tyler will then pass through the lines, and escort the Grand Master to his station in the East, preceded by the Book of Constitutions. The Master will take a seat on the left, after which the Grand Marshal will escort the other Grand Officers to their respective stations and places. (See diagram on following page.)

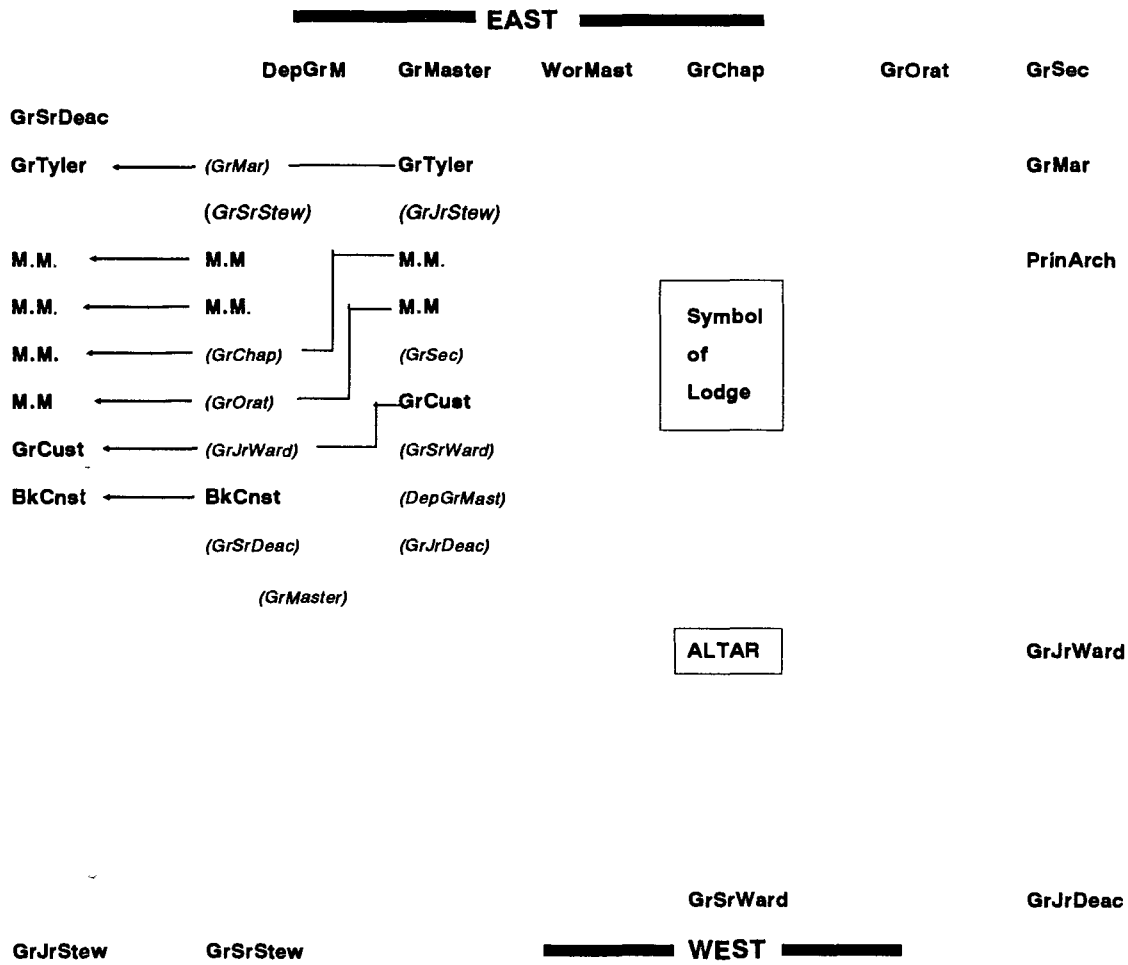
The brethren are then seated by the Grand Master.

An appropriate ode may then be sung.

At the conclusion of the singing of the ode, the Worshipful Master rises and addresses the Grand Master:

Worshipful Master: Most Worshipful Grand Master, the brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____, being animated with a desire to promote the honor and interest of the Craft, have erected and furnished this temple for their convenience and accommodation. They are desirous that the same should be examined by the Most Worshipful Grand Master; and, if it meets his approbation, it should be solemnly dedicated to Masonic purposes, agreeable to ancient form and usage.

Remaining Officers are Seated



The Grand Master will address the assembly, announcing the purpose of the occasion, offering such remarks as he may deem proper, and conclude by saying:

Grand Master: In accordance with the teachings of our Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity, it is our duty, before entering upon any great and important undertaking, to invoke the blessing of Deity. We will therefore unite with our Grand Chaplain in an address to the Throne of Grace.

The Grand Master calls up the brethren, and uncovers. The Grand Chaplain will repair to the Altar, kneel and offer the following prayer.

Grand Chaplain: Almighty God, Who giveth breath to every living thing and of Whose power it is that peoples, nations, and kindreds of men stretch forth the curtains of their habitation, we give Thee hearty thanks for that spirit of brave adventure to which this Nation owes its birth. We rejoice in the insuperable courage of those brave pioneers who, loving liberty and knowledge, have pushed away the veil of mountains and of seas and have sought light, freedom, and a home for themselves and their children on

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

these treeless plains; and we pray that Thou wilt give to us the same spirit and make us a people worthy of these heroic ideals and traditions. Bless this land of promise with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Fashion into one happy community the peoples brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those entrusted in Thy name with the authority of governance, that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavors upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. And hasten the time, we pray Thee, when all the peoples of the earth shall dwell together in righteousness and peace, and war shall be no more. All of which we ask in the name of the Most High. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The Grand Master seats the brethren. The architect who superintended the construction of the temple (or the brother who managed the furnishing, etc.) will address the Grand Master:

Architect: Most Worshipful Grand Master, having been entrusted with the duty of supervising and directing the workmen employed in the construction of this edifice, and having, to the best of my ability, accomplished the task assigned me, I now return my thanks for the honor of the appointment, and beg leave to return to you the implements committed to my care *(when the cornerstone of this structure was laid), humbly hoping that the result of our labors will be crowned with your approbation, and that of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.

**Omit part within parenthesis when cornerstone has not been previously laid.*

The Square, Level, and Plumb are given by the architect to the Grand Marshal, who presents them to the Grand Master.

Grand Master: Worshipful Master, we will carefully examine your new building, and try it by the Square, Level and Plumb. Brother Grand Marshal, accompany the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Senior and the Grand Junior Wardens, for the purpose of examining the building.

The Grand Master delivers the implements of Operative Masonry to the Grand Marshal, who presents the Square to the Deputy Grand Master, the Level to the Grand Senior Warden, and the Plumb to the Grand Junior Warden.

The Grand Officers named above retire from the lodge and make an examination, after which they return and resume their stations.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Deputy Grand Master: *(Rises)* The Square.

Grand Master: Have you applied the Square to the parts of this temple which should be square?

Deputy Grand Master: I have, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Grand Senior Warden: *(Rises)* The Level.

Grand Master: Have you applied the Level to that part of the temple which should be level?

Grand Senior Warden: I have, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Grand Junior Warden: *(Rises)* The Plumb.

Grand Master: Have you applied the Plumb to that part of the temple which should be plumb?

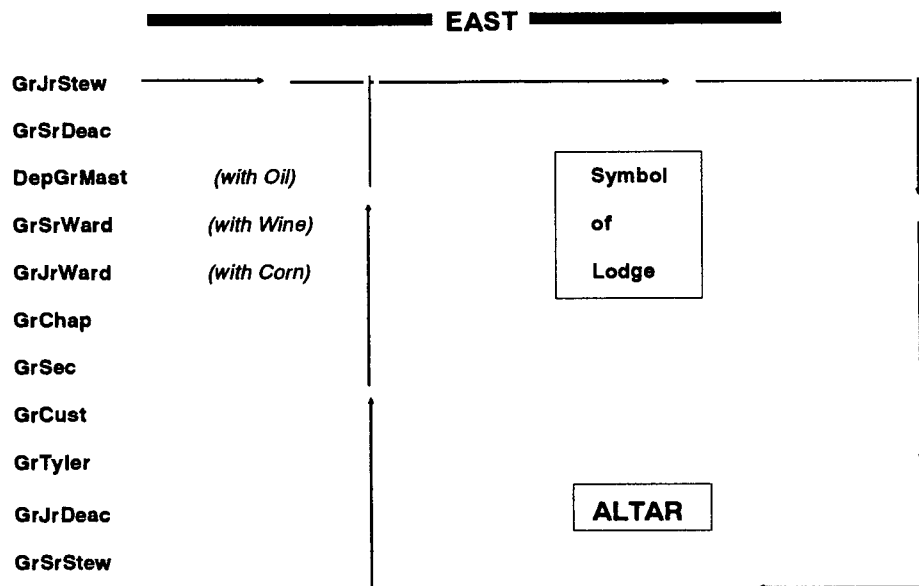
Grand Junior Warden: I have, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master: Brother Architect, the skill and fidelity displayed in the execution of the trust reposed in you at the commencement of this undertaking have received the entire approbation of the Grand Lodge. We sincerely pray that this edifice may continue as a lasting monument of the taste, spirit, and liberality of its founders.

Deputy Grand Master: *(Rises)* Most Worshipful Grand Master, the temple in which we are now assembled and the plan upon which it has been constructed, having met with your approbation, it is the desire of the brethren that it should now be dedicated according to ancient form and usage.

Grand Master: Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, agreeably to the request of the brethren, we will now proceed with the ceremonies. Brother Grand Marshal, you will form the Grand Officers in procession.

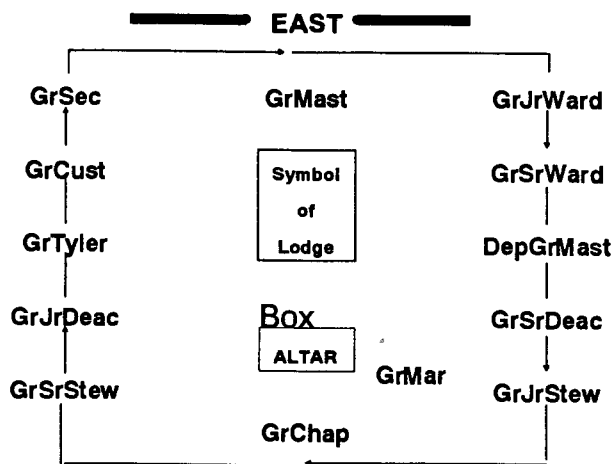
The Grand Marshal will instruct the Grand Officers to form in single file on the north side of the temple, facing east, in the following order.



The procession will move around the Symbol of the Lodge, passing west of the Altar. The Grand Chaplain will take his place (kneeling at the Altar) and remain there during the ceremony. The Symbol of the Lodge will be slowly uncovered by the Grand Marshal, during which the first stanza of the ode will be sung, or played.

Doxology

When the Grand Master arrives at the East (of the Symbol of the Lodge) the music ceases. The procession halts.



Grand Chaplain *(reads from the Holy Bible ,1st Kings, VII, 13-14):* “And King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow’s son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass; and he was filled with wisdom, and

understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to King Solomon, and wrought all his work.”

The Grand Master will seat the brethren.

The Grand Officers remaining in line, the procession will move around the Symbol of the Lodge as before, during which processional music will be played.

Grand Chaplain: *(Reads from the Holy Bible, 1st Kings, VII, 15-17)* “For he cast two pillars of brass, of eighteen cubits high apiece; and a line of twelve cubits did compass either of them about. And he made two chapiters of molten brass, to set upon the tops of the pillars; the height of one chapter was five cubits, and the height of the other chapter was five cubits. And nets of checker work, and wreaths of chain work, for the chapiters which were upon the top of the pillars; seven for the one chapter, and seven for the other chapter.”

Grand Junior Warden: *(Advances and presents the vessel of corn, saying)* Most Worshipful Grand Master, in the dedication of Masonic Temples, it has been the custom from time immemorial to pour corn upon the lodge, as an emblem of nourishment. I therefore present to you this vessel of corn, to be employed by you, according to ancient usage.

The Grand Master then calls up the brethren by striking the Symbol of the Lodge thrice with his gavel, and pours the corn upon the emblem, saying:

Grand Master: In the name of the Great Jehovah, to whom be all honor and glory, I do solemnly dedicate this temple to Freemasonry.

Grand Marshal: The Grand Honors, brethren, by three times three.

The Grand Master seats the brethren and the procession again moves once around the Symbol of the Lodge.

Grand Chaplain: *(Reads from the Holy Bible, 1st Kings VII. 18-22)* “And he made the pillars, and two rows round about upon the one network, to cover the chapiters that were upon the top, with pomegranates: and so did he for the other chapter. And the chapiters that were upon the top of the pillars were of lily work in the porch, four cubits. And the chapiters upon the two pillars had pomegranates also above, over against the belly which was by the network: and the pomegranates were two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapter. And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple; and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin; and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz. And upon the top of the pillars was lily work; so was the work of the pillars finished.”

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Grand Senior Warden: (*Advances to the west of the Symbol of the Lodge and says*) Most Worshipful Grand Master, wine, the emblem of refreshment, having been used by our ancient brethren in the ceremonies of dedication and consecration, I present to you this vessel of wine, to be used according to ancient Masonic form.

The Grand Master calls up the brethren by striking the Symbol of the Lodge thrice with the gavel and pours the wine upon the Symbol of the Lodge saying:

Grand Master: In the name of the Holy Saints John, I do solemnly dedicate this temple to Virtue.

Grand Marshal: The Grand Honors brethren, by three times three.

The Grand Master seats the brethren and the procession again moves once around the Symbol of the Lodge.

Grand Chaplain: (*Reads from the Holy Bible Psalms CXXII*) "I was glad when they said unto me. Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together; Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sake I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good."

Deputy Grand Master: (*Advances to the west of the Symbol of the Lodge and says*) Most Worshipful Grand Master, I present to you, to be used according to ancient custom, this vessel of oil, an emblem of that joy which should animate every bosom on the completion of any important undertaking.

The Grand Master raises the Lodge by striking the Symbol of the Lodge thrice, pours the oil upon the Symbol of the Lodge saying:

Grand Master: In the name of the Fraternity, wheresoever dispersed, I do solemnly dedicate this temple to Universal Benevolence.

Grand Marshal: The Grand Honors brethren, by three times three.

The Grand Master seats the brethren.

Grand Chaplain: (*With outstretched arms*) May this Freemason's temple, now dedicated to Masonry, be ever the sanctuary and abiding place of Virtue, Charity, and Universal Benevolence; and may the Lord, the giver of every good and perfect gift, bless all here

assembled, and all the brethren throughout the world; and grant to each of them, in needful supply, the Corn of nourishment, the Wine of refreshment, and the Oil of joy. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The Grand Marshal will then slowly recover the Symbol of the Lodge, accompanied by a strain of music, after which the Grand Master will resume his station in the East. The Grand Officers will take their respective stations and places and remain standing.

Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, you will make proclamation that this temple in which we are now assembled has been dedicated to the purposes of Freemasonry in due and ancient form.

Grand Marshal: By order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, I do hereby proclaim, that the temple in which we are now assembled, has been dedicated to the purposes of Freemasonry in due and ancient form. This proclamation is made from the East (*Grand Master strikes one rap*), from the West (*Grand Senior Warden strikes one rap*), and from the South (*Grand Junior Warden strikes one rap*), Once (*Grand Junior Warden strikes once with his gavel*), Twice (*Grand Senior Warden strikes twice with his gavel*), Thrice (*Grand Master strikes thrice with his gavel*). All interested will take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

The Grand Master seats the brethren. An appropriate ode may be sung or an oration may now be delivered. At the conclusion of the oration the Grand Master will call up the brethren.

Grand Master: Brother Grand Chaplain, you will now pronounce the benediction.

Grand Chaplain: Almighty and everlasting God! Giver of every good and perfect gift: bless, we beseech Thee, this temple which we have this day dedicated and consecrated. Send down upon Thy servants who shall here assemble, Thy choicest blessings. Guide us all through life, and when its labors are ended, gather us into the Mansions above, and Thine shall be the glory, forever and ever. Amen and Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The Grand Officers then form in procession, under the direction of the Grand Marshal in the same order as when entering the temple, and return to the reception room (while passing out of the lodge room there should be instrumental music), where the Occasional Grand Lodge will be closed. When the Grand Officers have retired, the Worshipful Master will seat the brethren.

Reception Of Visitors

The reception of visitors, with the honor due their rank, is an ancient custom of the Fraternity. It is an act of great discourtesy to a visiting officer to omit his formal reception by the lodge; and, in an official visitation, the visiting officer should ordinarily require it. On the occasion of visits not official, it will be found to greatly increase a true fraternal feeling when this courtesy is properly shown.

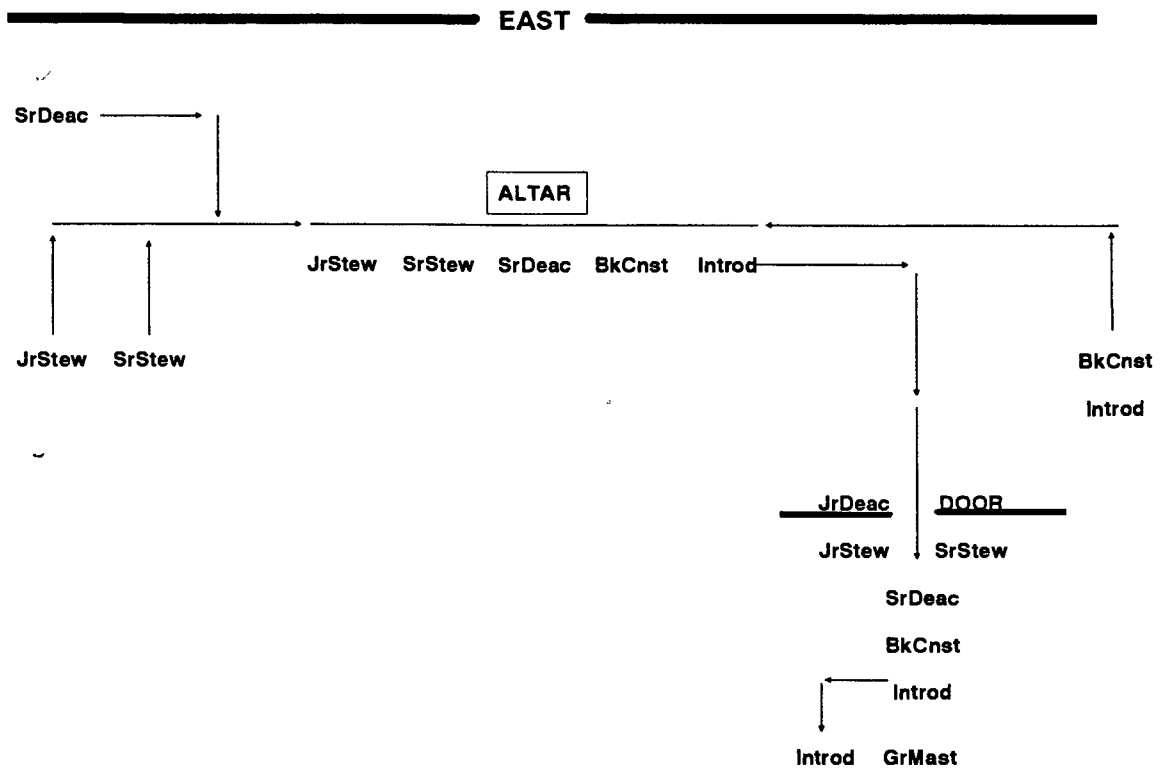
The Grand Master

When a visit from the Grand Master is expected, the Master will see that convenient accommodations are provided. When the Grand Master's presence is made known, the Master appoints a committee to escort him to the lodge room. The committee shall consist of the following: a Past Master to act as introducer and chairman of the committee, a Past Master to carry the Book of Constitutions, the Senior Deacon, and the Stewards. The Worshipful Master then says:

Worshipful Master: Brother Senior Deacon, retire with committee and conduct the Grand Master (or the personal representative of the Grand Master) to the lodge room.

The committee approaches the Altar, salutes the Worshipful Master, and retires. If it is an open meeting the committee does not salute.

Line Up On Retiring



On the return of the committee, the Senior Deacon gives the alarm at the door.

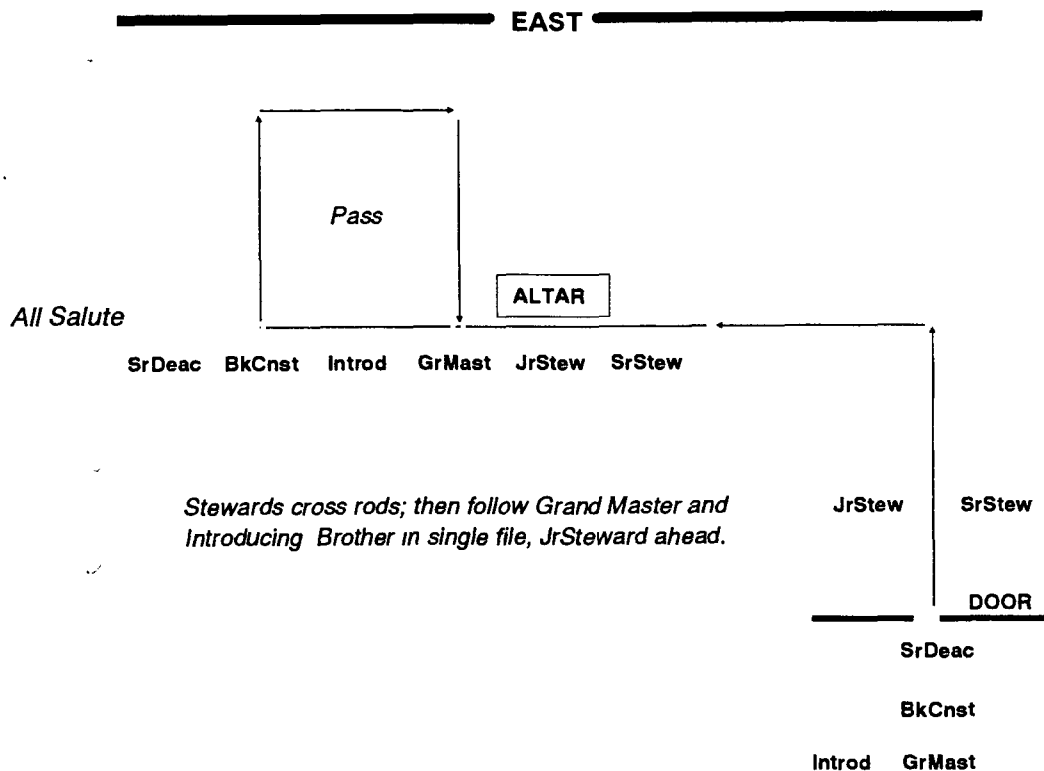
Junior Deacon: There is an alarm at the door, Worshipful Master.

Worshipful Master: Attend to the alarm.

The Junior Deacon answers the alarm, opens the door, and returns to his place.

Junior Deacon: The Most Worshipful Grand Master (or the personal representative of the Grand Master) of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

Line Up on Entering and Receiving



When the announcement is made, the Worshipful Master calls up the lodge and removes his hat. The Stewards enter and raise their rods to form a triangle. The Senior Deacon and Past Master carrying the Book of Constitutions enter, in single file. The Chairman of the Committee (the introducer) conducts the Grand Master on his right to the Altar. When the line has passed, the Stewards join at the rear of the procession. When the Committee, with the Grand Master, arrives at the Altar, they should be in the following order from north to south: The Senior Deacon, Past Master carrying the Book of Constitutions, Chairman of the Committee (introducer), Grand Master, Junior and Senior Stewards.

The Worshipful Master acknowledges the salute of the committee with the gavel. If it is an open meeting they do not salute.

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Introducer: Worshipful Master, I have the honor and pleasure of introducing to you Most Worshipful Brother _____, Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska.

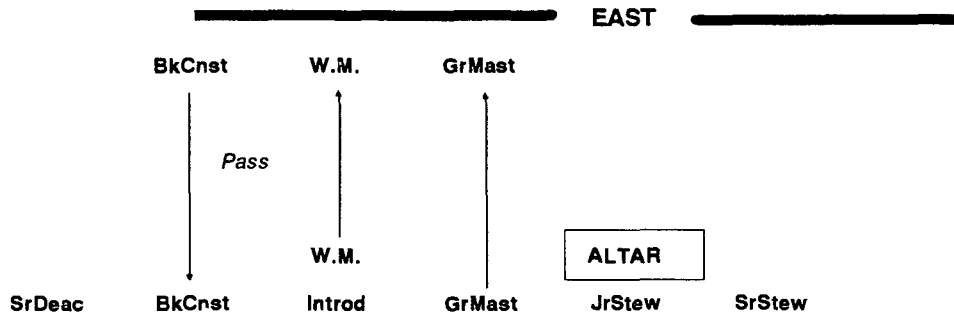
OR

Introducer: Worshipful Master, I have the honor and pleasure of introducing to you (use proper title and name), personal representative of the Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska.

The Worshipful Master takes the gavel by the handle in his left hand, and descends the dais, keeping the pedestal on his left. As the Worshipful Master approaches the Altar, at a point midway between the Altar and the East, he passes the Past Master who is carrying the Book of Constitutions to the East. The Worshipful Master extends his right hand to the Grand Master and says:

Worshipful Master: Most Worshipful Sir, we are honored by your presence.

Conducting the Grand Master to the East



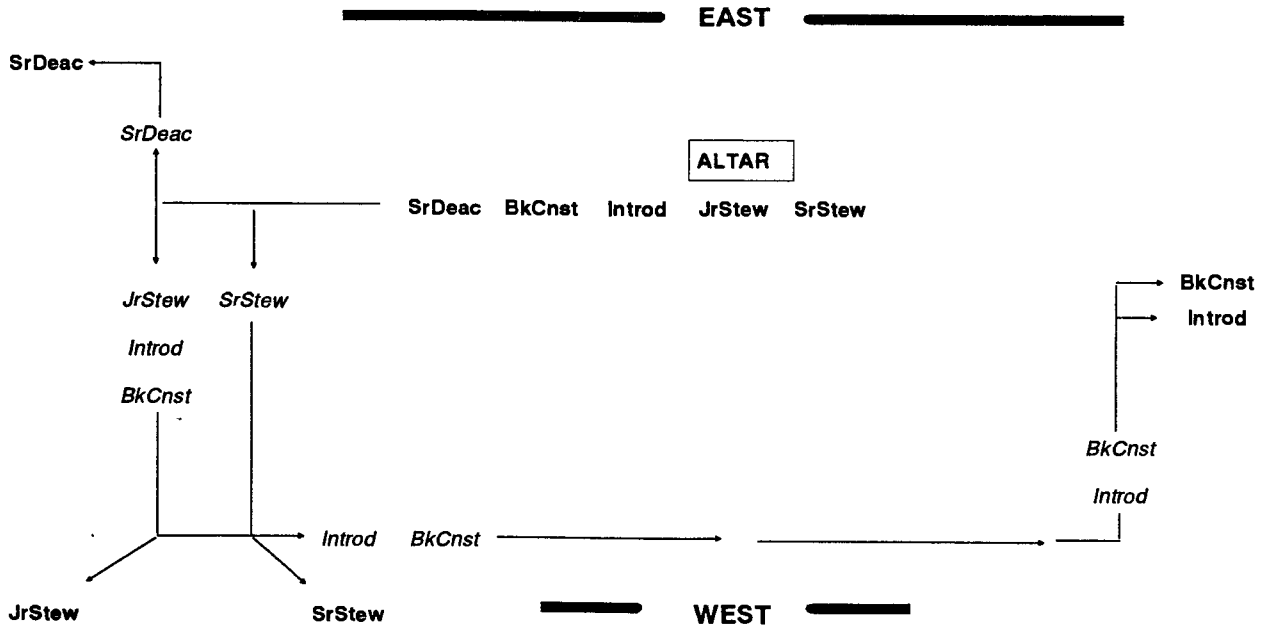
The Worshipful Master presents the gavel to the Grand Master with his right hand, handle first, and escorts the Grand Master to the East. At a point midway between the East and the Altar, they meet the Past Master, who has carried the Book of Constitutions to the Master's pedestal, returning to his place in the line. The Grand Master takes his place in the East, back of the pedestal, with the Worshipful Master on his right. The Worshipful Master then gives the following introduction.

Worshipful Master: Officers and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. ____, and visiting Brethren. I have the honor and pleasure of introducing to you Most Worshipful Brother _____, Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska. Salute him with the Grand Honors by three times three. Together, brethren.

OR

Worshipful Master: Officers and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. ____, and visiting Brethren. I have the honor and pleasure of introducing to you (proper title and name), Personal Representative of the Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska. Salute him with the Grand Honors by three times three. Together, brethren.

Officers are Seated



After the Grand Master has been introduced, the Reception Committee will march in single file to the north marching line. The Senior Deacon proceeds east on the north line of march, to his station. The Past Master carrying the Book of Constitutions, followed by the Introducer, proceed west, then south, then east, to their chairs on the south side of the Lodge room. The Junior Steward and Senior Steward, marching abreast of one another, follow immediately behind the Introducer until they reach the west marching line, at which point they proceed to their stations.

The Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens

The form is the same as for the Grand Master except that the Book of Constitutions will not be borne before them, nor the Grand Honors given.

Visiting Brethren

Lodges may receive visiting Masons in good standing of any degree, but from such jurisdictions only as are recognized by this Grand Lodge. They should be vouched for by one with whom the brother has sat in lodge, or examined only under the direction of the Master. A visitor is entitled to see the lodge charter previous to his examination; but, he is received by courtesy only, and can participate in lodge proceedings only so far as leave is granted.

If a member of a subordinate lodge objects to a visitor's admission, the latter must be excluded; but, the objection holds only during the meeting at which it is made. An objection to a brother as a visitor in a lodge which has been requested to confer the remaining degrees upon him should not be entertained until after such degrees have been conferred.

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

No subordinate lodge in this jurisdiction shall receive a visitor, unless a Master Mason, known as such in the lodge, shall vouch for the visitor as a Mason in good standing; or, until the visitor, after strict examination, shall prove himself to be a Mason in good standing in some subordinate lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, or under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge.

No such visitor shall be examined until he produces to the Worshipful Master of the lodge, or to the committee of examination appointed by the Master, a certificate under the seal of his lodge, authenticated by the seal of the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction whence the visitor comes, which certificate must show that he is a member of said lodge in good standing. Such diplomas and certificates as are authorized by the law of the Grand Jurisdiction whence the visitor comes may be accepted as filling the requirements of this section in that respect. And, the Master and committee must be satisfied that the lodge giving the certificate is a regular lodge, working under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, or of a regular Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge A.: F.: & A.: M.: of Nebraska; and, unless such certificate is dated within one year prior to the date of such examination, the visiting brother must also present some receipt of documentary evidence from his lodge, bearing a date not to exceed twelve months prior to the date of such examination, showing that he remains a member of said lodge in good standing. No subordinate lodge shall permit a brother holding membership in a lodge outside this Grand Jurisdiction to visit a Nebraska lodge, who does not exhibit a proper diploma or receipt for dues dated within one year prior to such visitation.

When a Brother visits a lodge for the first time and has been examined or vouched for, he should be introduced in the following manner. The Senior Deacon conducts the Brother to a place west of the Altar and says:

Senior Deacon: Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure of introducing to you Brother _____, of _____ Lodge No. ___ at _____.

The Worshipful Master raises the Lodge.

Worshipful Master: Brother _____, it gives me pleasure to introduce you to the officers and members of _____ Lodge No. ___ and our visiting Brethren, and to welcome you to a seat among us. We meet on _____, and shall be very glad to welcome you to any of our meetings.

The Senior Deacon conducts the visitor to a seat, and the lodge is seated.

No brother should be allowed to visit a lodge for the first time without an introduction. If the visitor is a Past Master, an officer of any Grand Lodge, or a permanent member of our own Grand Lodge, he should be invited to a seat in the East. The Master should take great care to extend the proper courtesies to visiting brethren, and to make them feel welcome.

Tyler's Oath

I, _____, do hereby and hereon solemnly and sincerely swear that I have been regularly initiated, passed, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in a just and legally constituted Lodge of such; that I do not now stand suspended or expelled; and know of no reason why I should not hold Masonic communication with my brethren.

Installation of Officers of Subordinate Lodge

If the lodge has been previously constituted, the installation ceremony is in charge of the subordinate lodge. The installing officer must be a Past Master, and will remain uncovered during the entire ceremony. The installing officer is addressed by the title of his office, if a Grand Officer, or Worshipful Master. The other installing officers are Secretary, Marshal and Chaplain. Also, an Organist if one is used. The installation ceremony may be open or closed to the public. A lodge of Master Masons must be opened in regular form, and everything that constitutes a lodge must be in evidence. The Installing Marshal will see that the jewels, rods, baton and Tyler's sword, as well as the furniture and implements, are placed on a table near the East. He will also see that the necessary chairs are placed west of the Altar. Reference may be made to the charter without removing it from its usual position. All members of the Craft should wear aprons.

Worshipful Master: Brother Secretary, you will announce the names of the officers, elected and appointed, to govern this Lodge.

As the names are called by the Installing Secretary, the officers take their positions in front of the chairs, west of the Altar, facing the East, with the Master-Elect on the south end of the line.

Worshipful Master: Brethren of _____ Lodge No. ___, the brethren who have been selected as officers of your Lodge are at the Altar. If there is any brother present who knows of any just cause why any of these brethren should not be installed, let him make it known now.

Pause. The Installing Master seats the brethren.

Worshipful Master: Brother Marshal, you will conduct the Master-Elect to the Altar.

Marshal: Worshipful Master, I present to you my worthy Brother _____ to be installed Master of _____ Lodge No. ___. I believe him to be of good morals, and great skill, true and trusty; and, as he is a lover of the whole Fraternity, wherever dispersed over the face of the earth, I doubt not he will discharge his duties with fidelity.

Worshipful Master: My Brother, the office of Master is of great antiquity and respect, and is one of the highest offices to which we may aspire. Its' incumbent, to rule well, should possess and practice several important requisites.

As a man, he should be of approved integrity and irreproachable morals; of good repute in the world; and practicing, as an example to his brethren, the cardinal virtues of TEMPERANCE, FORTITUDE, PRUDENCE AND JUSTICE.

As a citizen, he should be loyal to his government; prompt in the duties he owes to society; and a pattern of fidelity.

As a Mason, he should be prompt to aid and relieve; and should cultivate everywhere and at all times, the golden tenets of BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF AND TRUTH.

As an officer, he should remember, first of all, that he is an individual Mason; and, though elevated for a time above his brethren, he is elevated by them; be accessible to all, cultivating the closest friendship and the most unlimited confidence with his associate officers; be eager to take counsel with his brethren, and ready to give it; be ready to reward good, be devoid of favoritism, and wholly impartial.

Such are some of the most important qualifications which a Master should possess. It may be that most, if not all of us, have failed to reach this standard; but it is attainable; and be it your purpose to reach it, and be a bright and shining example to those who shall come after you.

My brother, no man should ever enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of deity. Brother Marshal, you will conduct the Installing Chaplain to the Altar.

The Marshal conducts the Installing Chaplain east of the Altar, facing west. The Master-Elect and the Installing Chaplain should kneel at the same time. The Installing Master raises the entire assembly. The Installing Chaplain gives the following, or some suitable prayer.

Installing Chaplain: Most holy and glorious Lord God, we approach Thee with reverence, and implore Thy blessing on this brother, elected to preside over this Lodge, and now before Thee. Fill his heart with Thy fear; that his voice and actions may pronounce Thy glory. Make him steadfast in Thy service. Grant him firmness of mind. Animate his heart and strengthen his endeavors. May he teach Thy judgments and Thy laws, and be Thy true and faithful servant. Bless him, O Lord, and bless the work of his hands. Accept us in mercy. Amen

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The Marshal conducts the Installing Chaplain to his seat.

The Master-Elect remains kneeling west of the Altar.

The Installing Master, standing in the East back of the pedestal says:

Installing Master: Brother _____, say I, pronounce your name, and repeat after me. do solemnly promise, on the honor of a Mason, that, while serving as Master of _____ Lodge No. __, I will, to the best of my ability, strictly comply with, abide by, and enforce the constitution, laws, and edicts of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska; the bylaws of _____ Lodge No. __; and all ancient Masonic usages, so far as they shall come to my knowledge. You will rise.

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

The Installing Master seats the lodge.

My Brother, previous to your investiture, it is necessary that you signify your assent to those ancient Charges and Regulations which point out the duty of the Master of a Lodge.

The Master, to whom these charges are addressed, should signify his assent to all of them at the close.

- I. You agree to be a good man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law?
- II. You agree to be a peaceable citizen, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside?
- III. You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against government, but patiently, to submit to the law and constituted authorities?
- IV. You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrates; to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men?
- V. You agree to hold in veneration the original rulers and patrons of Freemasonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations; and to submit to the decisions and resolutions of your brethren when in Lodge convened, in every case consistent with the constitutions of Freemasonry?
- VI. You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels, and to guard against intemperance and excess?
- VII. You agree to be cautious in your behavior, courteous to your brethren, and faithful to your Lodge?
- VIII. You promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance imposters, and all dissenters from the original plan of Masonry?
- IX. You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the mystic art?
- X. You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being, and to his officers when duly installed; and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge, or General Assembly of Masons, that is not subversive to the principles and groundwork of Masonry?
- XI. You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry?
- XII. You promise a regular attendance on the committees and communications of the Grand Lodge on receiving proper notice, and to pay attention to all the duties of Masonry on convenient occasions?

- XIII. You admit that no new lodge shall be formed without permission from the Grand Lodge and that no countenance be given to any irregular lodge, or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, being contrary to the Ancient Charges of Freemasonry?
- XIV. You admit that no person can be regularly made a Mason in, or admitted a member of, any regular lodge, without previous notice, and due inquiry into his character?
- XV. You agree that no visitors shall be received into your Lodge, without due examination, and satisfactory evidence of their having been initiated in a regular lodge?

These are the regulations of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Do you submit to these Charges, and promise to support these Regulations, as Masters have done in all ages before you?

The Master-Elect will answer in an audible voice: I do.

Installing Master: Brother _____, in consequence of your cheerful conformity to the Charges and Regulations of the Ancient Fraternity, you are now to be installed Master of _____ Lodge No. ___ in full confidence of your care, skill and ability to govern the same. Brother Marshal, you will conduct the Master-Elect to the East.

My brother, the Marshal will now invest you with the jewel of your office, the Square. (*The Marshal places the jewel*). As the Square is employed by the operative Mason to fit and adjust the stones of a building, that all its parts may properly agree; so you, as Master of this Lodge, are admonished by the symbolic meaning of the Square, to preserve that moral deportment among the members of your lodge, which should always characterize good Masons; and to exert your authority to prevent ill feelings or angry discussion arising to impair the harmony of its meetings.

The Marshal will hand the furniture and implements to the Master-Elect, as each is being explained by the Installing Master.

You will also receive the furniture and implements of the Lodge. The Holy Writings, that Great Light in Masonry, will guide you to all truth; it will direct your paths to the Temple of Happiness; and point out to you the whole duty of man.

The Square is an instrument made use of by operative Masons to square their work. But we, as Free and Accepted Masons, making use of the tools of the operative Craft as symbols for our moral instruction, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of squaring our actions by the Square of Virtue.

The Compass teaches us to circumscribe our desires, and keeps us within due bounds with all mankind.

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

The Book of Constitutions, you are to search at all times. Cause it to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it contains.

You now assume responsibility for the Charter by the authority of which this Lodge is held. As its lawful custodian, you are to carefully preserve and duly transmit it to your successor in office.

You will also receive the Bylaws of this Lodge, which you are to see carefully and punctually executed.

The Installing Master conducts the Master up the steps and places him behind the Master's pedestal.

I place in your hand this Gavel, an additional insignia of your rank and authority. Wield it, my Brother, with prudence and discretion.

I now seat you in the Oriental Chair and cover you with that distinction which, in this Lodge, it is alone your privilege to wear.

The Installing Master will raise the brethren only.

Worshipful Master, behold your brethren. Brethren, behold your Worshipful Master.

The Brethren face the Master, assume the Cross of the Good Shepherd, and bow slightly. The Master responds by touching his breast with the gavel. The Installing Master seats the brethren.

Installing Master: The remaining officers will now rise and receive their obligation. Each of you do solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Mason, that you will, according to the best of your ability, strictly comply with the Constitution and Laws of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska; the bylaws of the Lodge; and, that you will faithfully perform all the duties of the office to which you have severally been elected or appointed.

The officers will answer in an audible voice: I do.

The Installing Master seats the officers.

Installing Master: Brother Marshal, you will present each of the remaining officers, in the order of their rank, to the East, for installation.

In presenting the officers, the Marshal will announce the name of the brother and the office to which he has been elected or re-elected, or appointed or re-appointed, using the same form as the first sentence in presenting the Master.

Senior Warden

Installing Master: Brother _____, you have been elected Senior Warden of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. (*The Marshal places the jewel*). The Level demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hope; and, though distinctions among men are necessary to preserve harmony, yet no eminence of station should make us forget that we are brethren. Your regular and punctual attendance is essential. In the absence of the Master, you are to govern this Lodge. In his presence, you are to assist him in the government of it. I firmly rely on your knowledge of Masonry and attachment to the Lodge for the faithful discharge of the duties of this important trust. LOOK WELL TO THE WEST.

Junior Warden

Installing Master: Brother _____, you have been elected Junior Warden of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. (*The Marshal places the jewel*). The Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man, to observe the just medium between intemperance and pleasure; and to make our passions and prejudices coincide with the line of our duty. To you, is committed the superintendence of the craft during the hours of refreshment, and to see that none convert the purposes of refreshment into intemperance and excess. LOOK WELL TO THE SOUTH.

Treasurer

Installing Master: Brother _____, you have been elected Treasurer of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. (*The Marshal places the jewel*). I trust your regard for the Fraternity will prompt you in the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

Secretary

Installing Master: Brother _____, you have been elected Secretary of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. (*The Marshal places the jewel*). It is your duty to observe the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure. Your good inclination to Masonry and your Lodge will induce you to discharge the duties of your office with fidelity; and, by so doing, you will merit the esteem and approbation of your brethren.

Chaplain

Installing Master: Brother _____, you have been appointed Chaplain of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. (*The Marshal places the jewel*).

That Holy Book, which is the chart and textbook of your sacred calling, is also the Great Light in Masonry, and forever sheds its benignant rays on every lawful assemblage of Free and Accepted Masons. From it, we may learn our duty to God, our neighbor and ourselves. Teach us from its life-giving precepts, and you will have faithfully fulfilled your sacred and important trust.

Deacons

Installing Master: Brothers _____ and _____, you have been appointed Senior and Junior Deacons of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewels of your office. *(The Marshal places the jewels).* You will also receive these rods, *(the Marshal hands each Deacon a rod)* which you will bear in the performance of your duties, as symbols of your deputed authority. It is your duty to attend on the Master and Wardens, and to act as their proxies in the active duties of the Lodge, such as in the reception of candidates into the different degrees of Masonry and the introduction and accommodation of visitors. A strict adherence to your duties will make our ceremonies more impressive to our members and visitors.

Stewards

Installing Master: Brothers _____ and _____, you have been appointed Senior and Junior Stewards of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewels of your office. *(The Marshal places the jewels).* You will also receive these rods, *(the Marshal hands each Steward a rod)* which you will carry in the performance of your ritualistic duties. You are to assist the Deacons and other officers in performing their respective duties; and, when the Lodge is at refreshment, it will be your duty to extend to visiting brethren such attentions as circumstances shall suggest. Your regular and early attendance at our meetings will afford the best proof of your zeal and attachment to the Lodge.

The offices of Marshal and Organist are not required by Grand Lodge bylaw and are at the option of the Master.

Marshal

Installing Master: Brother _____, you have been appointed Marshal of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office, *(the Marshal places the jewel)* and this Baton *(the Marshal hands the Baton to the Marshal)* as the symbol of your authority. It is your duty to organize, form and conduct all processions; to make proclamations when directed to do so, and to perform such other duties as the Worshipful Master shall direct.

Organist

Installing Master: Brother _____, you have been appointed Organist of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. (*The Marshal places the jewel*). Under the direction of the Worshipful Master, you will conduct the musical services of the Lodge. As harmony is the strength and support of all societies, so may it continue to strengthen and support our institution.

Tyler

Installing Master: Brother _____, you have been appointed Tyler of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office, (*The Marshal places the jewel*) and this Sword, (*The Marshal hands the Sword to the Tyler*) the ancient symbol of the Tyler. As the Sword is placed in the hand of the Tyler to enable him to guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and suffer none to pass or re-pass but such as are duly qualified, so it should admonish us to set a guard over our thoughts, a watch at our lips, post a sentinel over our actions, thereby preventing the approach of every unworthy thought or deed. I trust that your regard for good order will prompt you in the faithful discharge of your duties.

Charge to the Officers and Brethren

Installing Master: Worshipful Master, (*called up by one rap of the gavel*) the Grand Lodge, having committed to your care the superintendence and government of the brethren who compose _____ Lodge No. ____, you cannot ignore the obligations which devolve upon you, as their head; nor your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties you will be called upon to perform. The honor, reputation and usefulness of this Lodge will materially depend upon the skill and assiduity with which you manage its concerns, while the happiness of its members will be generally promoted in proportion to the zeal and ability with which you teach and practice the genuine principles of our Fraternity. It is your province to spread and communicate light and instruction to the members of your Lodge. Forcibly impress upon them the dignity and importance of Masonry, and seriously admonish them never to disgrace it. Charge them to practice, out of the Lodge, those duties which they have been taught in it; and, by amiable, discreet, and virtuous conduct, to convince mankind of the goodness of the institution; so that, when a man is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour out its sorrow; to whom distress may prefer its suit; whose hand is guided by justice; and whose heart is expanded by benevolence. In short, by a diligent observance of the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, the bylaws of this Lodge, the great traditions of Masonry; and, above all, the Holy Scriptures, which are given as a rule and guide to

our faith, you will be enabled to acquit yourself with honor, and lay up a crown of rejoicing which shall continue when time shall be no more.

Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, (*called up with two raps of the gavel*) you are too well acquainted with the principles of Masonry to warrant any distrust that you may be found wanting in the discharge of your respective duties. What you have seen praiseworthy in others, you should carefully emulate; and what, in them, may have appeared defective, you should, in yourselves, amend. You should be examples of good order and regularity, for it is only by due regard to the laws in your own conduct that you can expect obedience to them from others. You are assiduously to assist the Master in the discharge of his trust, diffusing light and imparting knowledge to all whom he shall place under your care. In the absence of the Master, you will succeed to higher duties. Your acquirements must, therefore, be such that the Craft may never suffer from want of proper instruction. I entertain no doubt that your future conduct will be such as to merit the respect of your brethren.

Brethren, (*called up by three raps of the gavel*) such is the nature of our constitution that, as some must, of necessity, rule and teach, so others must, of course, learn to submit and obey. Humility in both is an essential duty. The officers who are to govern your Lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety and the laws of the Fraternity to avoid exceeding the powers with which they are intrusted; and you are of too generous a disposition to envy their preferment. I therefore trust that you will have but one aim, to please each other, and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness; so that the principles and precepts of Masonry may be taught and practiced for the good of our fellow man and to the honor and glory of God. Finally, my brethren, as this Lodge has been formed and perfected in so much unanimity and concord, so may it long continue. May you long enjoy every satisfaction and delight which true friendship can afford. May kindness and Brotherly Love distinguish your conduct as men and Masons. Within your peaceful walls, may your children's children celebrate, with joy and gratitude, the annual recurrence of this happy occasion. And may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your Lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

Installing Master: Brother Marshal, you will make proclamation that the officers of _____ Lodge No. ___ have been regularly installed for the ensuing Masonic year.

The Marshal goes to a place west of the Altar by way of the south marching line.

Installing Marshal: By order of the Installing Master, I do hereby proclaim that the officers of _____ Lodge No. ___ have been regularly installed for the ensuing Masonic year. This proclamation is made from the EAST, (*Installing Master raps once*) from

the WEST, (*Senior Warden raps once*) and from the SOUTH, (*Junior Warden raps once*) Once, (*Junior Warden raps once*) Twice, (*Senior Warden raps twice*) Thrice, (*Installing Master raps thrice*). All interested, take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

The Installing Master hands the gavel to the Master and is seated among the brethren. A short oration or other appropriate program may be in order at this time.

Before closing, the Master will raise the lodge and the following, or other Benediction, will be given by the Installing Chaplain from in front of his chair.

Installing Chaplain: Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift, send down upon Thy servants here assembled, the healthful spirit of Thy Grace, that they may truly please Thee in all their doings. Grant, O Lord, power of mind and great understanding to those whom we have clothed with authority to preside over and direct the affairs of this Lodge; and so replenish them with Thy truth and adorn them with humility of life; that, both by word and good example, they may faithfully serve Thee, to the glory of Thy Holy Name, and to the advancement for all good purposes, of our beloved institution. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

Installation of Grand Lodge Officers

The Deputy Grand Master (Grand Master-Elect) will open a special communication of the Grand Lodge in due form.

A director may be used to assure the smooth flow of the ceremony.

Director: *(Gavel the audience to silence and announce)* The Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

As the installing officers enter and take their places, the director will retire. There should be background march music.

Past Grand Master: Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, we are now prepared to install your Grand Officers for the ensuing year. Brother Grand Secretary, you will announce the names of the Brethren, who have been elected and appointed officers of this Grand Lodge.

As the names are called, the officers selected take their position in line, west of the Altar, facing east, with the Grand Master-Elect on the south end of the line. While the officers are standing would be an appropriate time in the ceremony for the presentation of the colors and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Grand Marshal: Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, the officers elected and appointed are before you.

Past Grand Master: Brethren, if any member of this Grand Lodge knows of any just reason why any of these Brethren should not be installed, let him speak now or ever after hold his peace.

If no objections are made, he proceeds:

We are pleased to observe that you still approve the choices made, and we will now proceed with the installation. Let us unite in solemn prayer with our Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain.

The Installing Marshal, or Stewards, if they are used, will conduct the Grand Chaplain to the Altar. The Installing Past Grand Master will call up the assembly with three raps of the gavel.

Grand Chaplain: Let us pray.

The following, or an appropriate prayer, should be given at this time.

Grand Chaplain: Eternal Source of life and light, we humbly implore Thy divine favor upon this occasion, and upon the institution in whose services we are now engaged. Make it yet more helpful and beneficial to mankind, and inspire all who are connected

with it with an ardent love of Thee, and each other, and of every member of the human family. Bless now Thy servant before Thee, who is about to assume a new and important relation to his Brethren. Give him wisdom, give him strength, give him love. Enable him so to rule, that he may keep in view the best interests of the Great Brotherhood now about to be committed to his charge. Enable him to feel that he is to assume great and trying responsibilities, and to discharge them as to win all hearts. Grant Thy blessing upon the brethren who are to be associated with him in office. May they feel a just sense of their accountability to Thee and to the Fraternity; and may they ever be faithful and zealous and assist to uphold the hand of their Grand Master in all good deeds. In Thee, O God, as in the days of our apprenticeship, we do put our trust. Be Thou our friend, conductor, and guide in the unseen vicissitudes of life before us, and bring us all, at last, to see the Great Light, inaccessible and full of glory, where we shall behold Thee with unclouded vision forevermore. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

Installing Grand Marshal, or Stewards, if they are used, will conduct the Grand Chaplain to his seat.

Past Grand Master: I will now administer the obligation: You do each solemnly promise, in the presence of Almighty God and the members of the Grand Lodge, that you will, to the best of your ability, faithfully and impartially perform all the duties incumbent on the office or station to which you have been elected or appointed; that you will conform to the constitution, laws, rules, and regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska; and that you will enforce a strict obedience to the same from all, subject to your Masonic authority.

Response from Officers: I do so promise.

Past Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, you will present for installation the Grand Master-Elect.

The Grand Marshal, or Stewards, will conduct the Grand Master-Elect to the Altar.

Grand Marshal: Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, I have the pleasure of presenting for installation Brother _____, who has been duly elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

Past Grand Master: Most Worshipful Brother, we most cordially congratulate you upon your election to this, the most distinguished and important office within the gift of Masons. The confidence reposed in you by the members of the Grand Lodge in electing you to this high and important position is an ample guarantee to the Masonic

Grand Lodge of Nebraska

World of your wisdom and your worth. You cannot, my Brother, but be aware of the deep and solemn importance of the office you are now about to assume, nor of the many cares and perplexities which attend its unequalled honors. These perplexities, however, will be greatly alleviated by the affectionate regard and ready assistance of your Brethren, who have full confidence that you will discharge the important duties of your station with credit to yourself and honor to the Fraternity.

Brother Grand Marshal, you will now invest the Grand Master-Elect with the Jewel of his office.

Installing Past Grand Master moves from the East to the Altar.

Past Grand Master: I also present you with the gavel, the emblem of your Masonic authority, and welcome you (*clasps his hand*) to the East of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Nebraska, and ask the privilege of being the first to assure you of my fealty and obedience.

The Grand Master-Elect is then covered by the Grand Marshal, or Stewards, if they are used. The installing officer uncovers and conducts the Grand Master to the East.

Past Grand Master: I now Hail, Salute, and Proclaim you Grand Master of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska. Brethren of the Grand Lodge, behold your Grand Master. Most Worshipful Grand Master, behold your Brethren.

Installing Past Grand Master raises brethren with three raps of the gavel.

Brethren, join me in saluting Him with the Grand Honors by Three times Three.

Installing Past Grand Master seats the brethren.

Past Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, you will present for installation the Deputy Grand Master-Elect, then each of the remaining Grand Lodge Officers, in order of their rank.

The Grand Marshal will present each of the officers, in the order of their rank, in the same manner as the Grand Master. If Grand Stewards are used, they may assist in this and seat the officers after their installation. Appropriate music during floor movements will enhance the ceremony.

Deputy Grand Master

Right Worshipful Brother, the office to which you have been elected is one of high dignity; and may become one of great importance; for, in the absence of the Grand Master from the communications of the Grand Lodge, or from the limits of its

jurisdiction, you are by law, invested with his powers, and may exercise his comprehensive prerogatives. In view of such emergencies, allow us to remind you of the duty that may devolve on you, and the necessity of being thoroughly prepared to fill this distinguished position, with honor to yourself and credit to the Craft. I now, with much pleasure, invest you with the jewel of your office. You will now assume your seat at the right of the Grand Master in the East.

Grand Senior Warden

Right Worshipful Brother, by the suffrages of the members of the Grand Lodge, you have been elected their Grand Senior Warden. Be assiduous in the performance of your duties, so that you may be a strength and support to the Grand Master. I now invest you with the jewel of your office. In the absence of your superior officers, you will govern the Craft. While in your present station, **LOOK WELL TO THE WEST.**

Grand Junior Warden

Right Worshipful Brother, your Brethren have shown their confidence in your fidelity, by electing you their Grand Junior Warden; it affords me much pleasure to invest you with the jewel of your office. Your previous devotion to the duties of Freemasonry is a sufficient guarantee that you will be a vigilant warden, and that you will **LOOK WELL TO THE SOUTH.**

Grand Secretary

Right Worshipful Brother, with extreme pleasure, I invest you with your jewel, as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, and place in your charge its archives and records. The duties of Grand Secretary have generally been performed with distinguished ability and untiring industry, and I have a firm belief that the same devotion to duty will continue unchanged.

Grand Chaplain

Very Worshipful Brother, I have the pleasure of investing you with the jewel of your sacred office. In the discharge of your duties, you will be required to lead the devotional exercises of our Grand Communication, and perform the sacred functions of your calling at our public ceremonies. The profession which you have chosen for your calling in life, is the best guarantee that you will discharge the duties of your office with fidelity and fervency. Your station in the Grand Lodge is in the East, and on the left of the Grand Master.

Grand Orator

Worshipful Brother, you have been appointed Grand Orator. I invest you with the jewel of your office. Your reputation as a wise and discreet Freemason has designated you for this position of distinction. You enter upon the discharge of the duties of your office with the assurance of the confidence and respect of your Brethren. Be it your care to merit this high regard, ever bearing in mind the first lesson in Masonry: "Truth is a divine attribute, and the foundation of every virtue."

Grand Historian

Worshipful Brother, you have been appointed Grand Historian of this Grand Lodge. I now invest you with the jewel of your office. It is your duty to record the history of the Grand Lodge and to make note of its important doings. You are enjoined by your Brethren to preserve for posterity those matters that should not be permitted to escape the memory of all good Masons.

Grand Custodian

Worshipful Brother, you have been appointed Grand Custodian of this Grand Lodge, I now invest you with the jewel of your office. It is your duty to instruct the craft; to communicate light and information to the uninformed; to preserve our ritual and our traditions in the memory of the Fraternity; and, by your instructions to the constituent lodges, to illustrate the genius and vindicate the principles of our institution. It is to be presumed that one whom the Grand Master has thought capable of discharging so important and difficult a trust will require no admonitions to the proper performance of his duties. Let it be your object, while enjoining upon the members of this time honored fraternity a faithful regard for its obligations, to impress the world, at large, with a favorable opinion of its good effects.

Grand Marshal

Worshipful Brother, I now invest you with your jewel as Grand Marshal of this Grand Lodge, and present you with this Baton, the symbol of your authority. You will make all proclamations directed by the Grand Master, and will arrange and conduct the processions of this Grand Lodge. Your regard for the order will prompt you in the faithful discharge of your duties.

Grand Deacons

Worshipful Brethren, I now invest you, as Grand Senior and Grand Junior Deacons of the Grand Lodge, with these jewels of your office, and with these rods as emblems of your authority. You will act as messengers of the Grand Master and Grand Wardens in the more active duties of the Grand Lodge. Your devotion to Freemasonry will prompt you to vigilance in the performance of your duties.

Grand Stewards

Worshipful Brethren, I invest you, as Grand Senior and Grand Junior Stewards of the Grand Lodge, with these jewels of your office, and with these Rods as emblems of your authority. You are to assist the Deacons and other officers in performing their respective duties. It will be your duty to extend to visiting brethren such attentions as circumstances may suggest. Your devotion to Freemasonry will prompt you to vigilance in the performance of your duties.

Grand Tyler

Worshipful Brother, your office is a most important one and requires an unremitting watchfulness and care. It is your duty to keep off all cowans and eavesdroppers. Be vigilant, and see that none pass or re-pass without proper qualifications and due permission. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and this Sword, the Ancient Symbol of the Tyler, and repair to your place.

Past Grand Master: Brother Grand Marshal, I now declare the several officers of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, installed in due and ample form. You will, therefore, proclaim the same to the Brethren, that they, having due notice thereof, may govern themselves accordingly.

Past Grand Master raises the Lodge with three raps of the gavel.

Grand Marshal: In the name, and by the authority, of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, I hereby proclaim the officers of the Grand Lodge duly installed.

Past Grand Master: Brethren of the Grand Lodge, join in giving the Grand Honors, by three times three.

Brief comments or a suitable program may be in order at this time.

The Fifty Year Pin Ceremony

Authorized ceremony for the presentation of the Fifty Year Pin, which is presented by the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, to all members of Lodges in the Jurisdiction, who have been Master Masons for fifty years or more.

“For Thou, O God, hast heard my vows; Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear Thy name.”

Throughout the pages of that revered volume which is the Great Light of Masonry, length of life is held up as a reward to the righteous. The Psalmist sings, “The days of our years are three score years and ten.” This has come to be regarded as the standard of the usual allotment of the time of earthly existence, and , “if by reason of strength they be four score years”, we consider that the additional days are the heritage of those that fear the name of the Lord.

To be eligible to receive a “Fifty Year” badge of service in Masonry, the recipient must have passed the traditional boundary line and entered upon the years which are the heritage of the faithful and which, of all the years of life, hold the richest and most coveted blessings.

The life of a Mason may be divided into three distinct stages.

In youth, he serves with enthusiasm. Intolerant of orderly progress, he attempts to right the wrongs of the world by the sheer force of his passionate zeal for service. This stage contributes to progress and keeps our institution a living, vital power in advancing civilization.

In middle life, the enthusiast becomes the calm, assured leader among the craftsmen. He has learned the wisdom of restraint and the advantages of following the traveled pathways. He watches for sign posts and proceeds with care, that he may not lead the younger or weaker brethren into paths too difficult for them to follow. This stage gives to our institution its stability, and assures its permanence.

Age, the heritage of those who have passed successfully through the previous periods, is the stage of wisdom and reflection. It is the time of fulfillment and the reward for fidelity. Not until man has passed through the turmoil of youth and the plodding, less eventful period of his adult years, can he fully evaluate the true meaning of Masonry, the part it plays in the building of men, the influence of a God fearing institution in a world of selfish striving. Age, then, gives Masonry its meaning and proves its worth.

Brother Senior Deacon: You will present Brother _____ to the East.

Brother _____, The records show that you have been a Master Mason in good standing, for a period of fifty years.

For half a century, you have given of yourself, of your substance, and of your devotion, to Masonry. You can look back upon a lifetime of service to the Fraternity; you have assisted the widow and the orphan; you have promulgated the virtues of the brotherhood; you have protected its good name. Your fidelity entitles you to the admiration and to the esteem of your brethren, in your own lodge and in the Grand Jurisdiction of Nebraska.

This emblem of service is the evidence of that appreciation which the Grand Lodge wishes to express to you; it sets you apart as an example of fidelity, that "holiest of all good things which abide in a human breast."

Your period of service is not yet ended. May you continue, for many more years, to enjoy the companionship of your brethren, and to inspire them to deeds of valor as well as to the faithful performance of the duties to which their Masonic vows commit them.

As you wear this badge, wear it with pride which comes from the performance of duty; the pride which is the reward of faithful service.

May you long enjoy the heritage of those that fear the name of the Lord.

The Sixty Year Pin Ceremony

Authorized ceremony for the presentation of the Sixty Year Pin, which is presented by the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, to all members of Lodges in the Jurisdiction, who have been a Master Mason for sixty years or more.

Throughout Masonry's sacred volume, length of life is held up as a reward to the righteous. In this frame of reference the Lord spoke to the young King Solomon in I Kings 3:14 these words of assurance: "And if you wilt walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and commandments,..... Then I will lengthen thy days."

Longevity of life in the service of God and our fellowmen is truly a most wonderful attainment and privilege. We are both pleased and proud to recognize and honor you today for having been a Master Mason in good standing for a period of sixty years! The recipient of a sixty year pin of Masonry has encountered many stresses and trials in life as well as experiencing times of happiness and successful living. Your fidelity and loyalty to Masonry in good and bad times for over sixty years entitles you to be held in high esteem by your brethren. May you continue for many more years to serve your fellowmen in counseling and inspiring them by your good example and wisdom.

Brother _____, this sixty year pin is a gift from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, as a treasured honor to you and in recognition of your loyal and dedicated service in Masonry for these many years.

I am confident that you will not become weary in your welldoing. In conclusion, I share with you on this very special occasion in your life, these most appropriate words of the beloved English poet Browning which he wrote more than a century ago:

"Grow old along with me
The best is yet to be;
The last of life for which the first was made,
Our time is in His hands who saith,
A whole, I planned,
Trust God, See all, and be not afraid."

It is most appropriate that this emblem of service, the precious sixty year pin of Masonry, which you shall now receive, shall set you apart as an honorable and distinguished Mason among your brethren.

(The pin is now pinned; the recipient is invited to respond; the following conclusion is optional).

Brother _____, your sixty years as a Mason merits not only recognition by your brethren and the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, but it also merits an acknowledgement of gratitude to the Supreme Architect of the Universe for His gracious mercy and providential care. Therefore, let us join in the spirit and truth in that benedictory prayer from the Great Light of Masonry, (Numbers 6:24-27).

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee,
The Lord make his face to shine upon thee,
And be gracious unto thee,
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee
And give thee peace."

Amen.

The Seventy Year Pin Ceremony

It is desirable that the recipient of the seventy year pin be first introduced by relating his membership, offices held, and activities in his Masonic Lodge, appendant bodies of Masonry, his profession or business, and his service to his community, his church, and his country. Appropriate portions of the fifty year pin ceremony may be used.

Throughout Masonry's sacred volume, length of life is held up as a reward to the righteous. In this frame of reference the Lord spoke to the young King Solomon in I Kings 3:14 these words of assurance: "And if you wilt walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and commandments,..... Then I will lengthen thy days."

Longevity of life in the service of God and our fellowmen is truly a most wonderful attainment and privilege. We are both pleased and proud to recognize and honor you today for having been a Master Mason in good standing for a period of seventy years! The recipient of a seventy year pin of Masonry has encountered many stresses and trials in life as well as experiencing times of happiness and successful living. Your fidelity and loyalty to Masonry in good and bad times for over seventy years entitles you to be held in high esteem by your brethren. May you continue for many more years to serve your fellowmen in counseling and inspiring them by your good example and wisdom.

Brother _____, this seventy year pin is a gift from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, as a treasured honor to you and in recognition of your loyal and dedicated service in Masonry for these many years.

I am confident that you will not become weary in your welldoing. In conclusion, I share with you on this very special occasion in your life, these most appropriate words of the beloved English poet Browning which he wrote more than a century ago:

"Grow old along with me
The best is yet to be;
The last of life for which the first was made,
Our time is in His hands who saith,
A whole, I planned,
Trust God, See all, and be not afraid."

It is most appropriate that this emblem of service, the precious seventy year pin of Masonry, which you shall now receive, shall set you apart as an honorable and distinguished Mason among your brethren.

(The pin is now pinned; the recipient is invited to respond; the following conclusion is optional).

Brother _____, your seventy years as a Mason merits not only recognition by your brethren and the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, but it also merits an acknowledgement of gratitude to the Supreme Architect of the Universe for His gracious mercy and providential care. Therefore, let us join in the spirit and truth in that benedictory prayer from the Great Light of Masonry, (Numbers 6:24-27).

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee,
The Lord make his face to shine upon thee,
And be gracious unto thee,
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee
And give thee peace."

Amen.

Masonic Funeral Service

Directions

No lodge of Freemasons shall conduct a Masonic funeral service at the death of a person not a Master Mason in good standing at the time of his demise.

No person may be interred with the formalities of the Fraternity unless he, before his death, or a relative, or a friend shall have made a request for a Masonic service. Compliance with such a request shall be consonant with the wishes of the immediate family.

Having received notice of the death of a brother Master Mason, the Master of the lodge shall confer with the family of the deceased and learn whether a Masonic funeral service is desired. If a Masonic service is requested, the time and the place for the rite shall be mutually determined.

A Masonic funeral may be conducted between the opening and closing of an emergent communication of the lodge having charge of the service. If a lodge convenes for funeral purposes, it shall be formally opened as Master Masons and be recorded as an emergent communication. The master will then announce the object of the meeting and allude to the deceased brother as he may deem proper. The lodge shall be closed immediately after the funeral service has been conducted.

An emergent communication may be opened for the first funeral of the year and remain open for the balance of that year; on the condition that it must be closed before the Worshipful Master leaves office.

For a Masonic funeral service the secretary shall prepare an obituary roll on which shall be inscribed the name, date of birth, age, date of initiation, passing, raising or affiliation, and the date of death of the deceased brother. The obituary roll shall note that the ceremonies were performed by the lodge and may refer to any other matter deemed appropriate or of special interest to the lodge. At the proper time, this roll shall be read by the secretary.

The Masonic funeral service shall be in addition to the customary religious burial service. The presiding minister of the gospel may exercise the prerogatives commonly conceded to ordained members of the clergy on such an occasion, including the privilege of committal. When there is no committal, suitable language should be used to meet that situation.

Whenever possible or expedient, the Masonic funeral service shall be conducted under the direction of the Master of the lodge of which the deceased brother was a member, or under the auspices of the Master of the lodge which performs the rite.

Procedure from the lodge to the place of service may be adapted to the circumstances which prevail. The Tyler shall have ready for use the jewels, lambskin, and other properties which are designated for use in the ceremony.

The participating officers of the lodge shall wear their respective jewels. A Bible shall be carried by the Chaplain. All Masons who attend the service as a representative group shall wear the Masonic apron in the prescribed manner. No symbols of the Masonic Lodge except those specifically mentioned in the rite or in these directions shall be in evidence at a Masonic funeral service.

The order of march and the position to be taken at the grave shall be under the direction of the Master of the lodge. Questions of uniformity in procedure shall be determined by the Grand Custodian.

Masonic Funeral Service

Friends and Brethren, from time immemorial, it has been the custom of the Fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, when requested to do so, to conduct for a departed brother the time honored ceremony of the Order. We have assembled as Master Masons, to offer this tribute of our affection in the memory of our Masonic Brother _____, thereby demonstrating our past esteem for him and our fidelity to the principles of this fraternal order.

Again, we are called to acknowledge the loss of a brother, overtaken by that fate which shall eventually overcome us also. No power or station, no virtue or bravery, no wealth or honor, no tears of friends or kindred, can avert that destiny. This occasion teaches the impressive lesson that, ere long, each of us must pass through the valley of the shadow of death, to be known no more among men.

He who is our brother now slumbers in that last unbroken sleep. With him, we have walked the pilgrimage of life; together, we have kept ward and watch in its trials and tribulations. Now he has gone to accomplish, in the profound slumber of death, the destiny of all mankind.

As we see those whom we love passing, one by one, from among us, we ponder more deeply the mysteries of the promised land, that land to which so many of our loved ones have already gone. They pass in memory before us in a ceaseless procession, and so it will continue until the end of time. No traveler ever returns.

But is this the end of man and aspiring hope of a faithful Mason? No! Blessed be God! The Bible, that Great Light in Masonry, reveals the way of eternal life, and bids joy and hope arise to cheer and sustain the departing spirit. It points beyond the valley of the shadow of death and bids us turn our eyes with faith and confidence to the opening scenes of a vast and boundless eternity.

We know, that beyond the veil which we cannot penetrate, lies the promised land. Masonry teaches us to believe in immortality. "I am the resurrection and the life," said

the Lord, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

The secretary will now read the roll.

This lambskin, or white apron, is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. We display it here in token of our brother's labor in the Craft and our kindred sonship with our Heavenly Father.

This evergreen is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it, we are reminded of our high and glorious destiny beyond the grave, and that there dwell in these frail tenements of clay, an immortal spirit over which death hath no power and the grave no victory. This occasion teaches us that life's events cannot be foretold, that its mysteries cannot be fully understood, and that its ultimate end is inevitable. Mindful of life's uncertainty, let us not postpone our preparation for the moment when the summons for our departure shall come, so that we may be ready and unafraid to enter into the presence of that Great Judge to whom the secrets of every life are known. May our remaining years, therefore, reflect boundless charity for our less fortunate neighbor, may our lives give evidence of our faith in the brotherhood of all mankind, and may our hope and confidence in a Divine Providence be rewarded with an eternity for us all.

And, when at last, we stand in the presence of the Master, and submit to his judgment our performance of the duties we owe to God, to our neighbors, to our families, and to ourselves, may it be our reward to hear from Him who sitteth as the Judge Supreme, those welcome words: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

To you, the family and friends, we express our heartfelt sympathy. In this hour of sorrow and bereavement, we offer our most sincere and affectionate consolation.

Committal

In this faith, my brethren, we leave our brother in the hands of that One "Who doeth all things well; Who is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders." Let us pray.

Prayer

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, we thank You for the life and memory of our brother and for his labor and fellowship in Masonry. May we ever remember that a Divine Providence is in our midst to inspire us to noble endeavors, and to undergird us with strength sufficient for our tasks. Grant us the wisdom to discern the living of

the abundant and useful life. And, when our days are completed upon this earth, may we be received into that realm of fadeless light where faith and hope shall be rewarded with Eternal Life. And Thine, O Blessed Father, be the glory forever. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

Interment

The Interment may be used when preceded by the Masonic Memorial Funeral and there is no minister available.

Friends and Brethren: In the sacred writings of Holy Scripture in Ecclesiastes 12, these words are expressed: "Because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets; or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

Since, therefore, Almighty God hath taken unto himself the soul of our brother, we offer this tribute of our affection for him.

We commit his remains to this place. We commend his spirit to God who gave it. We cherish his memory in our hearts.

Let us pray. O Lord our God, and our Eternal Father, through your servants and the sacred scriptures, you have revealed to us: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

We thank Thee, Dear Lord, for the love that encompasses us, whether in life or in death. In this solemn moment of stress and strain, enable us to hear Thy voice saying: "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am Thy God."

Sanctify to us the hallowed memories of the past, strengthen and uphold us amid the sorrows of the present, guide and sustain us in the journey of the future, so that we may grow in faith, in love and know "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding."

The Lord Bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Response by Brethren: So mote it be.

The Masonic Memorial Tribute was approved by the 1988 Grand Lodge of Nebraska as a revision of the Masonic Funeral Service.

Committee: T. Leo Stines, P.G.M.; J. Dallas Gibson, P.G. Chaplain; and Paul R. Pierce, P.G.M. and P.G. Secretary. Attest: Wayne G. Lueneborg, Grand Master.

Masonic Memorial Service

The Committee on Nebraska Work has ruled that this Masonic Memorial Service is neither esoteric nor monitorial, and is not required to be memorized. It shall in no case be a substitute for the Masonic Funeral Service, but is suggested where the lodge desires something of this nature.

— Grand Custodian

It shall not be necessary to open an Emergent Communication for the Masonic Memorial Service.

If desired, a hymn may be used at the beginning, between the Chaplain's part and the Master's part, and at the end of the service.

Chaplain: When earth's last picture is painted
 And the tubes are twisted and dried,
 When the oldest colors have faded
 And the youngest critic has died,
 We shall rest, and faith we shall need it
 To lie down for an aeon or two,
 Till the Master of all good workmen
 Shall set us to work anew.
 And those who are good shall be happy;
 They shall sit in a golden chair,
 They shall splash at a ten leagued canvas
 With brushes of Comet's hair.
 They shall find real Saints to draw from,
 Magdalene, Peter and Paul,
 They shall work for an age at a sitting
 And never grow weary at all.
 And only the Master shall praise them
 And only the Master shall blame;
 No one shall work for money
 And no one shall work for fame,
 But each for the joy of the working
 And each in his separate star,
 Shall draw the thing as he sees it
 For The God, of the things as they are.

— Kipling

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations, before the mountains were brought forth or even the earth was formed and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

A thousand years in Thy sight are but yesterday when it has passed, and as a watch in the night.

We spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet are they filled with labor and sorrow, but they are soon cut off, and we fly away.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Psalms: 23: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.

Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Let us pray:

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, one dear to our hearts has completed his pilgrimage on this earth. We thank Thee for his life and the memory of his labors among us. May we ever remember that a Divine Providence is in our midst to inspire us to noble endeavors, and to undergird us with strength sufficient for our tasks. Grant us the wisdom to discern the ways of living the abundant and useful life. And, when we have completed our days on earth, may we be raised to the joys of fadeless light in the Kingdom where faith and hope shall have rewarded us with eternal life. And Thine, O Blessed Father, shall be the Glory forever. Amen.

Worshipful Master: Friends and Brethren, from time immemorial, it has been the custom of the Fraternity of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, when requested to do so, to conduct for a departed brother the time-honored ceremony of the Order. We have assembled as Master Masons, to offer this tribute of our affection in the memory

of our Masonic brother, _____, thereby demonstrating our past esteem for him and our fidelity to the principles of this fraternal order.

Again, we are called to acknowledge the loss of a brother, overtaken by that fate which shall eventually overcome us also. No power or station, no virtue or bravery, no wealth or honor, no tears of friends or kindred, can avert that destiny. This occasion teaches us the impressive lesson that, ere long, each of us must pass through the valley of the shadow of death, to be known no more among men.

He who is our brother now slumbers in that last unbroken sleep. With him, we have walked the pilgrimage of life; together, we have kept ward and watch in its trials and tribulations. Now he has gone to accomplish, in the profound slumber of death, the destiny of all mankind.

As we see those whom we love passing one by one from among us, we ponder more deeply the mysteries of the promised land; that land, to which so many of our loved ones have already gone. They pass in memory before us in a ceaseless procession, and so it will continue to the end of time. No traveler ever returns.

But, is this the end of man and the aspiring hope of a faithful Mason? No! Blessed be God! The Bible, that Great Light in Masonry, reveals the way to eternal life, and bids joy and hope arise to cheer and sustain the departing spirit. It points beyond the valley of the shadow of death and bids us turn our eyes with faith and confidence to the vast and opening scenes of a boundless eternity.

We know that, beyond the veil which we cannot penetrate, lies the promised land. Masonry has taught us to believe in immortality. "I am the resurrection and the life," said the Lord. "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

The Secretary will now read and deposit the roll, after which the Master continues.

The lambskin, or white apron, is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. We display it here in token of our brother's labors in the Craft and in acknowledgment of our kindred sonship with our Heavenly Father.

(Then, holding up the evergreen in his right hand) . This evergreen is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it, we are reminded of our high and glorious destiny beyond the grave, and that there dwell in these frail tenements of clay, an immortal spirit, over which death hath no power and the grave no victory. (Places evergreen on bier).

This occasion teaches us that life's events cannot be foretold, that its mysteries cannot be understood, and that its ultimate end is inevitable. Mindful of life's uncertainty, let us not postpone our preparation for the moment when the summons for our departure shall come, so that we may be ready and unafraid to enter into the presence of that Great Judge to whom the secrets of every life are known. May our remaining years, therefore, reflect boundless charity for our less fortunate neighbor; may our lives give evidence of our faith in the brotherhood of all mankind, and may our hope and confidence in a Divine Providence be rewarded with an eternity for us all.

And, when at last, we stand in the presence of the Master and submit to his judgment our performance of the duties we owe to God, to our neighbors, to our families, and to ourselves, may it be our reward to hear from Him who sitteth as the Judge Supreme, those welcome words: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

To you, the family and friends, we express our heartfelt sympathy. In this hour of sorrow and bereavement, we offer our most sincere and affectionate consolation.

In this faith, my brethren, we leave our brother in the hands of that One "Who doeth all things well; Who is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders."

Chaplain: To the family and loved ones, we extend our deepest sympathy. May we assure you, should the time ever come and the need arise, _____ Lodge No. ___ will be ever ready to assist you.

One voice, throughout all times, has brought comfort to those in sorrow, when He said: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

It is good to be remembered
In this world so full of care,
When our fleeting days are numbered
And life's burdens hard to bear.
Just to know there is someone thinking,
Wondering how you really are
When your heart is almost sinking
Neath the waves of dark despair,
To feel a hand that's firm and tender
Guiding as you travel on.
And a still small voice to render
Words of cheer "today is gone."

It is so good to be remembered
For the good that we have done,
When our work on earth is ended
And in peace we slumber on.

— *W. O. Samuelson*

Let us Pray:

Thou, Oh God! knowest our downsitteing and our uprising, and understandest our thoughts afar off. Shield and defend us from the evil intentions of our enemies, and support us under the trials and afflictions we are destined to endure, while traveling through this vale of tears. Man, that is born of woman, is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with Thee, Thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; turn from him that he may rest, till he shall accomplish his day. For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. But man dieth and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up, so man lieth down and riseth not up, till the heavens shall be no more.

Yet, O Lord! have compassion on the children of Thy creation, administer them comfort in time of trouble, and save them with an everlasting salvation. Amen.

Masonic Calendar

Ancient Craft Masons commence their era with the creation of the world — calling it **Anno Lucis** (A.:L.:) “in the year of light.”

A.:A.:S.:Rite same as Ancient Craft, except the Jewish Chronology is used — **Anno Mundi** (A.:M.:) “in the year of the world.”

Royal Arch Masons date from the year the second temple was commenced by Zerubbabel — **Anno Inventionis** (A.:I.:) “in the year of the discovery.”

Royal and Select Masters date from the year in which the Temple of Solomon was completed — **Anno Depositionis** (A.:Dep.:) “in the year of the deposit.”

Knights Templar commence their era with the organization of their Order — **Anno Ordinis** (A.:O.:) “in the year of the Order.”

Order of High Priesthood dates from the year of the Blessing of Abraham by the High Priest Melchizedek — **Anno Benefacto** (A.:Beo.:) “in the year of the Blessing.”

Rules for Masonic Dates

Ancient Craft — Add 4000 years to the common era.
Thus, 1990 and 4000 = 5990.

A.:A.:S.:Rite — Add 3760 years to the common era.
Thus, 1990 and 3760 = 5750.
After September add another year.

Royal Arch — Add 530 years to the common era.
Thus, 1990 and 530 = 2520.

Royal and Select Masters — Add 1000 years to the common era.
Thus, 1990 and 1000 = 2990.

Knights Templar — Subtract 1118 years from the Christian era.
Thus, 1118 from 1990 = 872.

Order of High Priesthood — Add 1913 years to the Christian era.
Thus, 1990 and 1913 = 3903.