

FUNERAL SERVICE

EMINENT COMMANDER - "Sir Knights, in the solemn ceremonies of our Order, we have often been reminded of the great truth that we are born to die. The mournful funeral knell has be-tokened that another spirit has winged its flight to a new state of existence. An Alarm has come to the door of our Asylum, the messenger is Death; and none presumes to say to the direful presence, "Who dares approach?" A Pilgrim Warrior has been summoned, "and there is no discharge in that war."

*A burning taper in the life of our Commandery has been extinguished and none save the High and Holy One can relight it.

"The earthly remains of our beloved frater lies mute before us and the light of the eye and the breathing of the lips in their language of fraternal greeting have ceased for us forever on this side of the grave. His sword, vowed to be drawn only in the cause of truth, justice and liberty, reposes in its scabbard and our arm can no more shield him from wrong or oppression."

"It is meet, at such a time, that we should be silent, and let the words of the Infinite and Undying speak, that we may gather consolation from His revelation, impress upon our minds lessons from His wisdom and learn the meekness of preparation for the last great change which must come upon us all."

"Let us be reverently attentive while the Prelate reads to us a lesson from the Holy scriptures."

CAPTAIN GENERAL "1. Un, 2. COVER."

(The following passages of Scripture or some portion thereof should then be read.)

PRELATE _ "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me - Bless His Holy Name."

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction. He crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him, for He knoweth

FUNERAL SERVICE (Page -3-)

CAPTAIN GENERAL - "1. RE-COVER. 2. BE-SEATED."

"HYMN" (CHOIR renders appropriate music if desired.)

PRELATE - "Sir Knights, there is one sacred spot upon the earth where the footfalls of our march are unheeded; our trumpets quicken no pulse and incite no fear; the rustling of our banners and the gleam of our swords awaken no emotion. It is the silent city of the dead, to which another of our numbers is now to be borne. Awe rests upon every heart, and the stern warrior's eyes are bedewed with tears which never shame his manhood."

"This Sir Knight was our Brother. With him we have walked the pilgrimage of life and kept watch and ward in its vicissitudes and trials. He is now beyond earthly praise or censure, but we remember him in scenes which the world witnessed not, where fraternal feeling was genuine and undisguised. His virtues linger in our memory and the recollection of his finer qualities is a consolation in this hour."

JUNIOR WARDEN - (Steps forward, removes sword from scabbard and presents the sword hilt foremost, over his left arm to the Eminent Commander.)

EMINENT COMMANDER - "Our departed frater was taught that the sword in the hands of a true and courteous knight is endowed with three excellent qualities: "Its hilt with justice impartial; its blade with fortitude undaunted, and its point with mercy unrestrained." He could never grasp it without being reminded of the attributes it symbolized. To this lesson, with its deep significance, we trust he gave wise heed. An inspired and heartening hope leads us to the comforting belief that he met the trying hour of dissolution with fortitude undaunted, and, waking in the dawn of the new day, received justice tempered with that mercy unrestrained which is the glorious attribute of the Son of God and entering through the gates into the City has been admitted to the blessed companionship of just men made perfect in the realms of light and life eternal."

FUNERAL SERVICE (Page -5-)

PRELATE - "Almighty and Ever living God, our heavenly Father, our Supreme Grand Master: As we leave our Frater in Thy tender care, wilt Thou draw very near to those who were nearest and dearest to him, and graciously comfort and support them in their bereavement. And wilt Thou help us all to realize more and more clearly that with each passing day we ourselves are all advancing toward the day of our own final transformation. And O, our Heavenly Father, wilt Thou enable each and all of us as Thy followers, to use the remaining time that may be allotted to us in supporting and upholding the almighty force and importance of Truth, by practicing in our daily lives out of the Commandery those high, moral and Christian virtues that are inculcated in it. We ask in the name of the blessed Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, the Great Captain of our Salvation, Who hath taught us all to say:"

COMMANDERY - "Our Father which are in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

* Taps are sounded or chanted. (If chanted, use words printed following finish of service.)

BENEDICTION

PRELATE - "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be and abide with us all evermore. Amen."

CAPTAIN GENERAL - "1. Re, 2. COVER."

(The services being concluded, the Commandery is formed in column by the Captain General and marched to the entrance of the cemetery in silence, or at the tap of the drum.)