



MASTER MASON'S WORKSHOP

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Masonic Rites

Whenever a brother passes away the Master or Chaplain should contact the family to express the Lodges condolences and see what Masonic rites, if any they would like for the Lodge to perform. If the family is also requesting rites to be performed by other Masonic Houses, the Master should immediately notify the Heads of those bodies. If necessary, the Master should call a special-meeting for the purpose of opening the Lodge. The Lodge should be opened and called from labor to refreshment, to resume labor at the sound of the gavel in the East. At the time of its normal meeting, if the Master is aware that the Lodge will be performing rites, before its next scheduled meeting; rather than closing the Lodge, he may choose to call off from labor to refreshment, to resume labor at the sound of the gavel in the East. Note: wherever the Master is, that is the East. During the called meeting the Lodge should rehearse the rites to be given. (This is also the time to fill out the resolution.) It is important to know that the Lodge must be closed in the same month that it is opened.

Funeral dress for all participants is a black suit, black shoes, white shirt, white string tie, white gloves, white apron (no emblems) black band around the left arm, and a sprig of acacia (evergreen) pinned to the left lapel. The Deacons and Stewards rods should be covered with black crepes/crapes.

Church/ Wake services

When you are ready to begin, the Stewards arch the inside of the door Senior on the right, Junior on the left. Singing a Hymn upon entrance while marching. The deacons arch the Master lead by the Marshal to begin the processional in; the Master is followed by the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, Past Masters and Brothers. The Deacons arch the head of the coffin or arch as close as they can to the head as space permits. (No one is to ever stand in front of the coffin, or ever obstruct the family's view of the coffin.) The other officers and Brothers will line up as such: the Marshal will direct the brothers as needed to balance out the ranks. The Master at the head and to his right, the Senior Warden with the Junior Warden and Chaplain at the foot. The Marshal will direct the brothers left or right as needed, they lining up to the wall and along the wall toward the rear of the

sanctuary if necessary. The Tiler should be outside the door and exercise caution when permitting anyone to enter once the ceremony has begun. Once in place the Marshal will go to the entrance and stand, the stewards will make their way down, and each the foot of the coffin or arch as close as they can to the foot as space permits. The Marshal is essential, to assure everyone is where they are supposed to be and lined up properly.

W.M. - If a man die, shall he live again?

S.W. – The dust shall return to the earth as it was, and the spirit to God who gave it.

W.M. – When he dieth, shall he carry nothing away with him?

J.W. – He brought nothing unto this world, and he is certain he can carry nothing out.

W.M. – The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

S.W. – God is our God forever. He will be our guide and support through the dark valley of the shadow of death.

W.M. – Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of sorrow. He cometh forth as a flower and is cut down. He fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. In the midst of life we are in death. Of whom may we seek for succor but of Thee, O Lord, who for our sins are justly displeased? My Brethren, where is now our departed brother?

J.W. – He has gone over to the majority; he has lifted the veil and entered the invisible.

W.M. – Can we offer any precious thing to redeem our brother?

S.W. – We have no ransom; the place that once knew him shall know him no more forever.

W.M. – Shall his name be lost upon the earth?

J.W. – We will treasure it in our memories; we will record it in our hearts.

W.M. – How then will it be known?

S.W. – It shall live in the imitation of his virtues.

W.M. – When our brother died, did he carry nothing away with him?

J.W. – He fulfilled his destiny. Naked he came into the world, and naked departed he out of it.

W.M. – I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me “Write, from henceforth, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord! Even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.” Let us pray:

Prayer by the Chaplain or Worshipful Master

Almighty Father, when our journey shall be near its end; when the silver cord shall be loosened and the golden bowl be broken; when the light of life is fading and the shadows of eternity are creeping upon us; may the brightness of thy presence dispel the gathering gloom until the glories of the Celestial city burst upon our immortal vision; until within the walls of jasper we claps hands once more with our translated brother! May the benediction of Thy loving favor, sweet as the dews that fall on Herman, soothe the anguished hearts of these, our brother's loved ones, and lead them into the way everlasting! And to the one Invisible and Everlasting

God, without beginning of years or end of days, be all the glory, world without end. Amen!

All respond – So mote it be.

Optional- The Worshipful Master or some brother appointed by him for that purpose, may here make some brief, appropriate remarks concerning the deceased, having special references to his Masonic character or friendship.

After which the Worshipful Master or Secretary will read the resolution and present it to the family.

W.M. – This concludes our Masonic rites for our departed brother, he will be missed but never forgotten, if there is anything we can do please don't hesitate to ask.

The Marshal will inform the Tiler that the ceremony is over, and will make his way back down; the Tiler opens the doors. The Stewards will go to the door and arch it for the processional out. They will exit in the same order as entrance. The Marshal will direct the brothers out; he will be the last to exit.

The order of giving Rites is as Follows: Shrine, Scottish rite, Knights Templar, Royal & Select, Royal Arch, Masonic Lodge (blue house.) The Lodge is in charge and all other rites follow the direction of the Master. The Lodge will always be the last to give their rites and after they have finished no others can be given.

Grave Services

Arriving at the grave, the procession is halted; the pallbearers place the coffin in the position. Begin with singing a Hymn while marching. The deacons arch the Master lead by the Marshal

to begin the processional; the Master is followed by the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, Past Masters and Brothers. The Deacons arch the head of the coffin or arch as close as they can to the head as space permits. The other officers and Brothers will line up as such; the Marshal will direct the brothers as needed to balance out the ranks. The Master at the head; to his right the Senior Warden, and Chaplain, to his left the Junior Warden. A white apron and white glove are placed on the coffin. The Treasurer and secretary go to the foot of the coffin; the Marshal will direct the brothers left or right as needed, as the brothers fall in line they are to form a circle around the outside of the tent if used, and if not form around big enough to include the family and all present. No one can enter the circle once the ceremony has begun. The two stewards are last and they go to the foot of the coffin and arch or as close as they can get and arch the foot as space permits.

W.M. – Brethren, the imperious mandate of the dread messenger, Death, against whose entrance within our circle the barred doors and Tiler's sword afford no defense, calls upon us to mourn the loss of one of the sons of Light. The dead body of our beloved Brother _____ lies before us in its narrow house overtaken by that fate which must sooner or later overtake us all; which no power or station, no virtue or bravery, no wealth or honor, no tears of friends or agonies of loved ones, can avert; teaching the impressive lesson, continually repeated yet soon forgotten that each of us must ere long pass through the valley of the shadow of death.

S.W. – In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succor for Thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

J.W. – Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days that I may be certified how long I have to live.

W.M. – Let us so regulate our lives by the line of rectitude and truth, that in the evening of our days we may be found worthy to be called from labor to refreshment, and be well prepared for translation from the terrestrial to the celestial Lodge to join the fraternity of the spirits of just men made perfect.

Prayer by the Chaplain or Worshipful Master

The Lord blesses us and keeps us! The Lord makes his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us! The Lord lifts up the light of his countenance upon us and gives us peace! And unto

Him, the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, unto him be the glory forever and ever. Amen!

All Respond – So mote it be.

W.M. – Brethren, the solemn notes that betoken the dissolution of this earthly tabernacle have again alarmed our outer door, and another spirit has been summoned to the land where our fathers have gone before us. Again we are called upon to assemble among the habitations of the dead to behold the narrow house appointed for all the living. Here around us sleep the unnumbered dead. The gentle breezes fan their earthly covering, but they heed it not. The sunshine and the storm pass over them, but they are not disturbed. Stone and mountains symbolize the affection of surviving friends, yet no sound proceeds save that silent but thrilling admonition: “Seek ye the narrow path and straight gate that lead into eternal life.”

The last offices paid to the dead are useful only as lectures to the living. By them we are warned to prepare for our approaching dissolution. The present occasion will have been vain and useless if it fails to excite our serious reflections and to strengthen our resolutions of amendment. Let us therefore each embrace the present moment, and while time and opportunity permit, prepare for that great change which we all know must come, when the pleasures of the world shall cease to delight, and be as a poison to our lips; and when the happy reflections consequent on a well spent life afford the only consolation. Finally, when it shall please the Grand Master of the Universe to summon us into his eternal presence, may the Trestle Board of our lives pass such inspection that it may be given to each of us to “eat of the hidden manna” that will insure perpetual and unspeakable happiness at his right hand.

(The Lambskin/ white apron being removed from the coffin, the Master holds it up and says:)

W.M. – The lambskin, or white leather apron, is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason more ancient than the Golden Fleece, or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter when worthily worn. This emblem I now deposit in the grave of our deceased brother. (Deposit it, if coffin is above ground lay it back on top.) By it we are reminded of that purity of life and conduct so essentially necessary to gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

(Public Grand Honors are given once by all, taking time from the Worshipful Master.)

W.M. – ***Taking off his white glove and holding it up.) It is suggested that you use the glove that was laid on the coffin.***

This glove is a symbol of Fidelity, and is emblematical of that Masonic friendship which bound us to him whose tenement of clay lies before us. It reminds us that while these mortal eyes shall see him not again, yet by the practice of these tenets of our noble order, and a firm faith and steadfast trust in the Supreme Architect, we hope to clasp once more his vanished hand in love and friendship. ***(Deposits glove; if coffin is above ground lay it back on top.)***

“What virtue unites, death never parts”.

(Public Grand Honors are given twice by all, taking time from the Master.)

W.M. – ***(Removes evergreen/acacia from lapel and holds it up.)***

The evergreen which once marked the temporary resting place of one illustrious in Masonic history is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By this we are reminded that we have an immortal part within us that shall survive the grave and which shall never, never, **NEVER**, die. By it we are admonished that, though like our brother whose remains lie before us, our bodies shall soon be clothed in the habiliments of death and deposited in the silent tomb, yet our belief in the mercy of God, we may confidently hope that our souls will soon bloom in eternal spring. This too, I deposit in the grave. Alas, my brother.

(The brethren remove their evergreen/acacia from their lapel. If the coffin is above ground lay the evergreen on top of the coffin. The Master brings his right hand, holding the evergreen/acacia to his left breast; then extends it outward over the grave, palm down, drops the evergreen/acacia in the grave at its head with his hand closed, except the index finger, and then brings the open hand sharply down beside his thigh. Under the direction of the Marshal all the brethren deposit theirs in the same manner. If you have a lot of brothers present it is suggested that only the Master, Wardens, and Chaplain deposits theirs.)

(The Public Grand Honors are given thrice by all.)

(No one is speaking but the Worshipful Master. The brothers taking time and instructions from the master will do the Grand Honors as the Worshipful Master repeats at the proper time.

(When the hands are crossed over the breast) “We cherish his memories here.”

(When the hands are brought above the head.) “We commend his spirit to God who gave it.”

(When the hands are brought to the thighs with bow.) “We consign his body to the ground.”

(Take your time as you do the Grand Public Honors.)

Committal

W.M. – (Picks up shovel of dirt, if no shovel with his hand.) For as much as it has pleased Almighty God to take out of this world the soul of our deceased brother, we therefore commit his body to the ground, earth to earth (drops in shovel or hand full of dirt), ashes to ashes (drops in second shovel or hand full of dirt) dust to dust (drops in third shovel or handful of dirt.) Sleep on, My brother!

Prayer by the Chaplain or Worshipful Master

Our Father which are in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us not this daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

All say – So mote it be.

Optional- *The Master or some brother appointed by him for that purpose, may here make some brief, appropriate remarks concerning the deceased, having special references to his Masonic character or friendship.*

The W.M. will read the resolution and present it to the family. (The resolution should be purchased from the Grand Lodge Office and placed in a frame or presentation folder.)

Benediction

W.M. – May the blessings of heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons! May brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen

All brethren – So mote it be.

W.M. – This concludes our Masonic rites for our departed brother, he will be missed but never forgotten, if there is anything we can do please don't hesitate to ask.

Public Installation

(The jewels of the several officers are laid out orderly and conveniently, upon a table in front of the installing officer.)

The Worshipful Master/Masters

Marshall – Brother installing officer, I present my Worthy brother/brothers to be installed Master/Masters of the Lodge. I find him/them to be of good morals and of great skill, true and trusty; and as he is/they are a lover of the fraternity, I doubt not he will discharge his duties with fidelity and with honor.

Installing Officer – My Brother/Brothers in consequence of your conformity to the charges and regulations of the order that you have already before been read; you are now to be installed Master of the Lodge, in full confidence of your care, skill, and capacity to govern the same. I now present you with the insignia (Places his collar around his neck) of your office, book of Constitutions that you are to search at all times, the Charter by which authority the Lodge is held, and lastly the By-laws of the Lodge, which you are to see carefully and punctually executed. The Holy writings (VSL), that Great Light in Masonry will guide you to all truth; it will direct your path to the Temple of happiness and point out to you the whole duty of man. Brethren join with me in giving our new Master/Masters public Grand Honors. (Taking time from the installing officer)

Installing Officer – By the power invested in me I declare you installed for the ensuing year of 20__ and 20__. Look well to the East.

(Call up the rest of the officers to be installed line them up according to rank)

Senior Warden

Installing Officer – Brother you were Elected Senior Warden of the Lodge, I now invest you with the insignia of your office (places the collar around his neck)

Installing Officer – Your conformity to the charge given to you prior to this installation assures me you will perform your duties. In the absence of the Master; you are to govern the craft; in their presence, you are to strengthen and support the authority of the Master. Your regular attendance at the stated meeting is essential and necessary. I firmly rely on your knowledge of Masonry and attachment to the Lodge for the faithful discharge of the duties of this important trust.

Installing Officer - By the power invested in me I declare you installed for the ensuing year of 20__ and 20__. Look well to the West.

Junior Warden

Installing Officer – Brother you were Elected Junior Warden of the Lodge, I now invest you with the insignia of your office (places the collar around his neck)

Installing Officer - Your conformity to the charge given to you prior to this installation assures me you will perform your duties. In the absence of your superior officers, you are to govern the craft; in their presence, you will aid them in their arduous labors. Your regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested, and I have no doubt that you will faithfully execute the duty which you owe to the position you have been elected to serve.

Installing Officer - By the power invested in me I declare you installed for the ensuing year of 20__ and 20__. Look well to the South.

Treasurer

Installing Officer – Brother you were elected Treasurer of the Lodge, I now invest you with the badge of your office (places the collar around his neck)

Installing Officer - Your conformity to the charge given to you prior to this installation assures me you will perform your duties. I trust your regard for the fraternity will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

Secretary

Installing Officer – Brother you were elected Secretary of the Lodge, I now invest you with the badge of your office (places the collar around his neck)

Installing Officer - Your conformity to the charge given to you prior to this installation assures me you will perform your duties. Your good inclination to Masonry, and to the Lodge, I hope will induce you to discharge the duties of your office with fidelity, and by so doing you will merit the esteem and applause of your brethren.

Chaplain

Installing Officer - Brother, you are appointed Chaplain of the Lodge, and are now invested with the badge of your office. It is your duty to perform those solemn services which we should constantly render to our infinite Creator; and which when offered by one whose holy profession is “to point to Heaven and lead the way”, may by refining our souls, strengthening our virtues and purifying our minds, prepare us for admission into the society of those above, whose happiness will be as endless as it is perfect.

Senior & Junior Deacon

Installing Officer – Brother you were appointed Deacons of the Lodge, I now invest you with the badge of your office (places the collar around his neck)

Installing Officer - Brothers, it is your province to attend on the Master and Wardens, and to act as their proxies in the active duties of the Lodge.

Senior & Junior Stewards

Installing Officer – Brother you were appointed Stewards of the Lodge, I now invest you with the badge of your office (places the collar around his neck)

Installing Officer – You are to assist the Deacons and other officers in performing their respective duties. Your regular and early attendance at our meetings will afford the best proof of your zeal and attachment to the Lodge.

Tiler

Installing Officer – Brother you were appointed Tiler of the Lodge, I now invest you with the implements of your office (places the collar around his neck and hands him his sword.)

Installing Officer – Brothers just as we place a sword in the hand of the Tiler to guard out portals and entrances; we should 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. Brother Tiler your early and punctual attendance will afford.

Grand Master's Visitation

When the Most Worshipful Grand Master makes his annual visit, it is just that, his visit. He is there to address issues that concern the state and talk with the craft/brothers. It has become the practice of some districts to treat his visitation as if it is a regular district meeting, and conduct business as usual and while this may be convenient for the district, it is totally disrespectful to the Grand Master and inconsiderate to the brothers. This is one of the only times, if not the only time they will have to talk and address their Grand Master, and also one of the few times he will have time to really talk and address their concerns. Grand Masters visitation is just that his visit.

Introduction of the Grand Master

Introducer – Brothers, your Grand Master.

Brothers – Grand Master.

Introducer – Grand Master your craft.

Grand Master – Craft.

Introducer – Brothers, your Grand Master.

Brothers – Grand Master.

Introducer – Grand Master your craft.

Grand Master – Craft.

Introducer – Brothers, your Grand Master.

Brothers – Grand Master.

Introducer – Grand Master your Brothers.

Grand Master – My Brothers.

Introducer – *(The Gavel head is placed between the Grand Masters hands) Grand Master I now yield to you, the gavel of authority for you to do with as you see fit. (Releases Gavel, The presiding officer if wearing a hat REMOVES it.)*