

FUNERAL SERVICE

- Procession Instructions –

- 1- All Brethren clothed in white gloves and aprons.
- 2- Marshal with baton in lead.
- 3- Senior Warden with deceased's apron positioned to arrive at the head of the deceased, behind the Marshal.
- 4- Junior Warden with Sprig of Acacia positioned to arrive at the foot of the deceased, behind the Marshal.
- 5- Brethren line up two and two.
- 6- Master and Chaplain in the rear.

Master;

My Brothers: Masons are taught never to enter upon any great or important under-taking without first invoking the blessing of Almighty God - - let us pray.

Chaplain:

Almighty God – grant us Thy blessing as we meet on this solemn occasion – help us to look beyond the darkness and sadness of this moment to the light and hope of tomorrow – Thou knowest we are weak and unable to stand alone – fill us then with the power and comfort of Thy presence – that we may say with assurance – “The Lord gave – The Lord hath taken away” – blessed be the name of the Lord. – Amen.

Master;

My Brothers and friends – in keeping with an ancient custom of free and accepted Masons – which has subsisted from time immemorial – we are gathered on this most solemn occasion with saddened heart and softened affections – to bid farewell to one of our beloved fraternal family who has been called out of our midst to join with that great brotherhood beyond – he has passed out of the love of human hearts to a higher and more noble love – out of the dim lights of the lodge on earth – to the brighter – more glorious and celestial lodge on high.

(Master continues on next page)

(Master continues)

On these mournful occasions – the teachings of our fraternity come back to us with renewed force – God – immortality – friendship – these are the virtues we strive to keep before the eyes and minds of the brethren – these are the thoughts which have the power to comfort and uplift us now.

It is well that we pause to ask God's blessings upon us – let us pray.

Chaplain;

Almighty and Heavenly Father – infinite in wisdom – mercy and goodness – extend to us we beseech thee – the blessings of Thy grace – Thou alone art a refuge and help in trouble and affliction – in this bereavement we look to Thee for support and consolidation – deliver us from all doubt and despair – increase our faith – kindle our hopes – and make vivid the certainty of eternal life – grant us reliance upon Thy promise – and bring us at last to that haven where Thee and loved ones have gone before – we may dwell happily united – forever and forever more - - amen.

Master;

Always when we stand in the presence of death – the most profound problem of human life – the most pathetic cry of the human soul has been – if a man die – shall he live again? – does his spirit live on eternally? - - one subject on which Freemasonry sounds no uncertain note is the doctrine of immortality of the soul – we have implicit faith that our path leads not to the grave – but through it – there is no death – what seems so is transition – immortal we are and ever shall be – we look not to another life – but to the perfecting of this one – and in God’s good time we shall be raised by his right hand to that higher - fairer phase of life for which this is only the preparation.

Master;

Our Brother _____

Became a Freemason on _____

In _____ Lodge # _____

He left our earthly lodge to unite with the
lodge on high on _____.

While we mourn his loss – we rejoice that we
are citizens of two worlds – he has preceded
us and has joined our host of Brethren in that
other world where God – who is the father of
us all – awaits his coming.

(Master continues on next page)

Master;

This white apron (Senior Warden displays) known as the lambskin – is the badge of a Mason – it belonged to our beloved brother – its whiteness served to remind him of the innocence and purity of a righteous life – it reminds us that our brothers earthly labors are finished – he has laid aside the working tools of life – May the record of his life and actions be as pure and spotless as the fair emblem – which I now cause to be deposited upon the coffin of our departed brother.

(Senior Warden places the Apron in the middle of the coffin)

Master;

This sprig of Acacia (Junior Warden displays) is the emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul – the evergreen leaves are symbolic of the hope that life will continue to flourish even after death and that one day we shall be united in the house of many mansions – eternal in the heavens.

This emblem I now cause to be deposited upon the coffin of our departed brother.

*(Junior Warden places the Sprig of Acacia
at the foot of the coffin)*

Master;

To the immediate family and relatives who are most heart stricken at the loss they have sustained – we have but a little of this world’s consolation to offer – we can only sincerely – deeply – and most affectionately sympathize with them in their bereavement – and remind them that “He who tempers the wind to the shorne lamb” – looks down with infinite compassion upon the bereaved in the hour of their desolation – and will fold the arms of his love and protection around those who put their trust in Him – my brothers: let us pray.

Chaplain;

And now bless us and keep us and make The face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us and lift up Thy countenance upon us and give us peace now and forever more>

Amen and amen.

Chaplain note:

On exit from deceased – start chanting 23rd Psalms. (on next page)

Chaplain;

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 Guideth me in straight paths for His Names Sake.

Yeah though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

I will fear no evil.

Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

Thou has anointed my heart with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.