

OBLIGATION CEREMONY

Worthy Patron:

The Obligation of our Order was repeated by each of us when we joined Eastern Star. For some of us it was many years ago. For a few it has been only a short time. Regardless of the time that has passed since we assumed our Obligation, it is good to renew it and, perhaps, find a new meaning in it. In taking the Obligation, we entered upon a new phase of life, henceforth, we were numbered among the members of the Order who have for their inspiration, the Star of Bethlehem, which will guide all the faithful to the new Jerusalem, that city not made with hands. We are reminded that with privileges come responsibilities. It is fitting that at least once a year we take time to renew the Obligation we took at the Altar when we became a member of this beautiful Order. Everyone please form a circle around the Altar as we renew our Obligation together.

*[Gavel the Chapter up ***]*

Worthy Patron:

You will repeat after me the obligation.

[After the Obligation, each Star Point goes to the Altar, places a flower and speaks – remaining at the Altar after speaking. All others remain around altar]

Adah: As Adah, I symbolize FIDELITY. We must be faithful not only to the vows here assumed, but to all our obligations, to ourselves, to our Sisters and Brothers, to our country and to our God.

Ruth: As Ruth, I symbolize CONSTANCY. Each of us should be reminded to be faithful and unchanging in our duties. Whether our station be exalted and our duties heavy, or whether our station be humble and our responsibilities light, we have need to be steadfast, constant, and true.

Esther: As Esther, I symbolize LOYALTY. Day by day we are called upon to be loyal to ourselves and to the best there is in us, loyal to our friends, loyal to our country and to our God.

Martha: As Martha, I symbolize FAITH. From Martha we learn that a trustful faith is greater than knowledge. Our faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. We walk by faith, not by sight.

Electa: As Electa, I symbolize LOVE. Electa learned and put into practice the second great law laid down by Christ, “Thou shall love thy neighbor as thy self.” What she did has made her famous even to this day because she did it in love. Let us love one another.

Worthy Patron: Let us unite in Prayer.

Chaplain: *[leaves circle and kneels at the Altar].* Dear Lord, we ask thy blessing on this night! For, with a prayer in every heart, we ask that prayers be answered and Thy radiance shines bright. Make clear our paths and guide us through every task. Amen.

Worthy Patron: Let us all sing “Blest be the Tie That Binds” after which we will all return in our places in the Chapter room.

Worthy Patron seats the Chapter after all have returned to their places.