

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



Memorial & Cemetery Service

Including the White Rose Ceremony

*The special ceremonies and services contained in this division of the Ritual
may be used in public, as circumstances may require*

RITUAL

DIVISION V

RITUAL FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

(The special ceremonies and services contained in this division of the Ritual may be used in public, as circumstances may require, all other parts of the Ritual being secret.)

The Memorial Service

(This Memorial Service and the Service at the Cemetery, which follows, may be intermingled as desired for any occasion, and parts of either service may be used in the other. Each service has, however, been made complete in itself for purposes especially in view in its use. The Memorial Service is planned as a somewhat full and formal service and should be conducted, if possible so to arrange, by an ordained clergyman. The Service at the Cemetery is more brief in form, as suited to the circumstances, and if the assistance of a ministerial brother is not available, it may be led by an alumnus selected to give it thoughtful and impressive effect. It may be used in place of the Memorial Service at house or church, if so desired by the family of the deceased; and the use of either service at the funeral of a member is entirely optional.)

(Either service used should be carefully planned with any officiating clergyman and be wholly adjusted to the requirements of any other ritual under his direction.)

(The Memorial Service is intended for use at the home, church, or chapel, when so desired by members of the family of the deceased, the consent of the proper ecclesiastical authority having been obtained, as may be required. Such portions of the service may be used as may be deemed appropriate.)

LEADER: When thou art in tribulation, if thou turn to the Lord, thy God, He will not forsake thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers. Almighty God is the Lord of life and death, and of all things to them pertaining. In Him we live and move and have our being. He is the God in Whose hand is every living thing. Behold, His reward is in His hand and His work before Him. He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might. He increaseth strength. Believe in Him and He will keep thee. For we know if our

RITUAL

earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

[Psalm XXIII]

(Those present may be requested to repeat the Psalm with the leader.)

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.

(Here may be sung any selection which may be desired as a part of the service and any message spoken which is to be offered on behalf of the Fraternity.)

[The Lesson]

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and He is their Strength and their Redeemer. In the sight of the unwise, their departure is taken for utter destruction; but they are in peace. For though they be perished in the sight of men, yet are their spirits released from the body of flesh, and their hope is full of immortality. And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded, for God proved them, and found them worthy. As gold in the furnace hath He tried them, and received them to Himself. The righteous live forevermore; their reward is with the Lord; and the care of them is with the Most High. Therefore shall they receive from the Lord's hand a glorious kingdom and a victor's crown of righteousness.

RITUAL

[The Rose Ceremony]

LEADER: Inasmuch as our dearly beloved brother wore over his heart The White Cross of _____ whose immaculate whiteness symbolized to us the purity of his motives; therefore, it is most appropriate that he now bear above his heart our emblem; and that we lay white roses upon his casket in token of the sweet memories we will always cherish of him we loved so well.

ALL: So mote it be. Amen.

(The brothers, each wearing a white rose upon the lapel of his coat, will then pass around the casket and in turn lay their roses thereon.)

LEADER: Let us pray. *(All unite.)*

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

[Prayer]

LEADER: Almighty God, with Whom do live the spirits of just men made perfect, after they are delivered from their earthly prisons, we humbly commend the soul of this Thy servant, our dear brother, into Thy hands, Who art our Creator, most humbly beseeching Thee that it may be precious in Thy sight. Amen.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears may through Thy grace be so grafted inwardly in our hearts that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and glory of Thy name. Amen.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help, that all our works, begun, continued, and ended in Thee, may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain for us everlasting life. Amen.

RITUAL

ALL BROTHERS: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.

(This concludes the service. The leader shall so indicate to the officiating clergyman, or to such person as may have charge of the further proceedings. In all cases where there is no other provision, the officiating clergyman should pronounce a formal benediction at the close.)

Service at the Cemetery

(The Service at the Cemetery is limited in ritualistic and ceremonial form, as being more definitely a personal tribute of brotherhood with the renewals of our purpose to be worthy of the ideals we hold.)

(At the time indicated for the service on behalf of the Fraternity, the brother chosen as leader of the service shall take his place at the head of the grave with the brothers present gathered about him, so far as conditions may conveniently permit. He speaks as follows:)

LEADER: Brothers in _____. We are gathered here to pay our tribute of love and respect for the memory of our beloved Brother _____ *(Name)*.

RESPONSE BY ALL: All honor to his name.

LEADER: We meet because of his passing from our circle to the Chapter Eternal; and yet in our hearts is the confidence that his living spirit hovers near. To his dear ones and friends present, we would bring our expression of sympathy; and to his memory we would offer our homage for his qualities of heart and mind. As a friend, as a brother among us, and as a man of affairs, we have known him as loyal and devoted to the high ideals of The White Cross which we wear. His friendship was enduring; his generousities were large; and his life was an inspiration. He loved his Fraternity; but he knew that its helpfulness and sympathies were meant to be broader than the bounds of the organization. His loyalty was grounded in the faith that fraternalism stands finally for better citizenship, for a more noble civilization, and for the higher ideals of life in its service to man and reverence to God.

RITUAL

In this sacred place and reverent moment the thought is dominant that life and its true friendships are indestructible. Because of the spirit in man, death cannot have the victory. That which we call death is but the gateway to the life immortal; for the life of the spirit does not die.

[The Rose Ceremony]

LEADER: Inasmuch as our dearly beloved brother wore over his heart The White Cross of _____ whose immaculate whiteness symbolized to us the purity of his motives, therefore, it is most appropriate that he now bear above his heart our emblem; and that we lay white roses upon his casket in token of the sweet memories we will always cherish of him we loved so well.

(The brothers, each wearing a white rose upon the lapel of his coat, will then pass around the casket and in turn lay their roses thereon.)

LEADER: Let us unite in prayer. *(The Prayer may here be read, or better spoken from memory, by the leader, or by a brother requested to offer it.)*

[Prayer]

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, with Whom do live the spirits of just men made perfect, we do thank Thee for all those who, having been found worthy, have eternal life with Thee. We thank Thee for Thy Son, Jesus Christ; and that in His life and teachings Who was the Great Cross Bearer, we may learn worthily to wear The Cross. Grant we beseech Thee that the words we have heard this day may, through Thy grace, be so grafted in our hearts that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, for the exaltation of our Brotherhood, and to the honor and glory of Thy Name. Amen.

RESPONSE BY ALL: So mote it be.

(This concludes the Service. The leader shall so indicate to the officiating clergyman or to such person as may have charge of the further proceedings. In all cases where there is no other provision, the officiating clergyman should pronounce a formal benediction at the close.)