

A Martha Night Ceremony

Requires 8 members and song sheets. Decorations suggested green foliage.

Worthy Matron requests all Marthas to rise.

Worthy Matron: On behalf of my Chapter and myself, I bid you welcome. This is our Martha Night, and in the spirit of Faith and Love we greet you.

There's a joy that is deep in the heart,
As we on Christ's promise rely;
There's a love that surpasses all else,
There's a hope that will dry every eye,
And we know by the ring of a voice,
And we feel by the clasp of a hand,
That we share in this Faith so divine;
All these joys can our hearts understand.

Music: Trusting Each Day in the Word of the Savior (or suitable hymn of faith)

Worthy Matron: Sister Marshal, in honor of this occasion, you will now proclaim this Chapter Room a Temple of Faith.

Music: Tune of the Old Rugged Cross.

Oh, the Temple of Faith is enshrined in each heart,
A guidon of faith in our Lord;
And Contained in that Temple is home evermore,
And a deep loving trust in His word.
We may lay all our cares at His feet,
And unhampered our spirits will soar;
For the Temple of Faith is our strength,
And each have a key to the door.

Worthy Matron: Sister Conductress, you will conduct our Martha's to the East. (or special seats).

Worthy Matron: In honoring you, we are honoring all Martha's everywhere. (Worthy Matron seats Martha's and the Conductress returns to her seat. Adah rises, holding a candle in one hand, and a blue key in the other, circles the labyrinth and approaches Martha's.)

Adah: Dear Martha's, I bring you a key to open the outer door of the Temple of Faith.

This is the key of Fidelity,
'Tis blue as a cloudless sky;
To open a door in the Temple of Faith,
With love and a courage high.

(Adah slowly marches back to Esther's Chair turning and continuing to the right corner of the altar, stand and holds her candle. As she Marches Music may be sung "Keep your Covenant with Jesus" or similar type. Adah is at the southeast corner of the altar.)

(Ruth rises, with a candle and a yellow key, marches outside of the labyrinth, halting before the Martha's.

Ruth: And I, Martha, bring you the key to the second door of the Temple of Faith.

I offer now a yellow key,
An emblem of my Constancy,
To open wide the door;
And you may have a faith sublime,
In love and service, yours and mine,
In Christ, whom we adore.

(As she marches to her station at the southwest corner of the altar, behind Adah, Music may be sung "Lord of Harvest, Send Forth Reapers")

(Esther rises with candle and white key, Marches to Martha's)

Esther: Martha, I bring you the key of the third door of the Temple of Faith.

I offer the white key of Purity,
Bringing light and joy to your heart;
Mine the privilege of loyalty,
My devotion will not depart.

(As Esther marches to her station at the northeast corner of the altar, Music again may be sung "Trying to Walk in the Steps of the Savior")

(Electa rises with candle and red key, and marches to the Martha's)

Electa: Dear Martha, with love in my heart, I offer this red key to open the innermost door of the Temple of Faith.

Red as a rose is the key I give,
For that inner Temple door;
Fervent and sweet is the love there found,
Twill strengthen your faith evermore.

(Electa marches to her station at the northwest corner of the altar, Music sung "Wonderful Story of Love")

(The Chaplain now steps to the location of the Martha's. with a golden key.)

Chaplain: Sister Martha, accept this golden key. It will open all the doors in the Temple of Faith.

A golden key for an open door,
And Christ beyond;
And His own words go on before...
This is the bond.

For Faith is His sweet message here,
To satisfy;
It breathes of'er earth from far and near,
To home on high.

(Chaplain leads the Martha's to the southwest of the altar. This should complete the formation of a star with the four candles. Music "My Faith Looks up to Thee")

Chaplain: (Pointing to the Bible) And when the innermost parts of the Temple are open to you, His words are in your heart.

Christ may dwell in hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. And now, abideth faith, hope charity, these three. Without faith it is impossible to please God. The trial of your faith is much more precious than gold, which perisheth.

(The Chaplain then returns the Martha's to there special seats or back to their places. Music "Open the Gates of the Temple")