

Altar Closing Ceremony

When the Worthy Matron declares the chapter closed, the Associate Matron lights a candle. The Organist plays softly.

Variations- The Associate Matron may stay at her station, she may walk to the altar to the right of Esther's station and place the candle on the southwest corner of the altar, or the Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, Conductress, and Associate Conductress leave their stations and walk slowly to the altar, arriving together, standing at the four sides of the altar.

Worthy Matron: Now that our Sacred Book is closed
And our ceremonies are done
Our Associate Matron leaves a parting thought
In the hearts of everyone.

Associate Matron: I have lighted a candle of service
For we who have seen His star
May we think of the poor and needy
And help them, wherever they are.

Conductress: May envy, hate and malice
Just wither before this flame
And the eternal fire of God,
Light up our hearts in the Master's name

Associate Conductress: May all who have come to this meeting tonight
With hearts burdened with care,
Go forth with their burdens lightened
And peace find a dwelling place there.

Associate Matron extinguishes the candle:
As the light of the candle goes out
And the work of the day is o'er,
May all who have attended this meeting tonight,
Be permitted to meet here once more.

All officers turn and walk back to their stations while the Organist continues to play softly.

The flag is retired.

All officers retire.