

Ruth Honor Ceremony
Written and given by Ruthann Watts, Grand Ruth (219, 66)

Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Distinguished Guests, Sisters and Brothers:

I would like to thank Worthy Grand Matron Lori and Worthy Grand Patron Orville for appointing me Grand Ruth in this Trust in the Lord Session. It is such an honor to represent this Star Point, one of the great heroines of our Order. Ruth represents the sublime virtues of fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith and love. These same virtues each member of Eastern Star has the opportunity to live. We are true to our families and friends and practice loyalty and love each time we assist our Sisters and Brothers in their need.

The Moabites were worshipers of a pagan god and were not welcoming of the Ephrathites who were true to their beliefs in God. Ruth and Naomi were widows and poor when they arrived in Bethlehem (Ephrath). They were shunned by the people and to support Naomi and herself, Ruth became a gleaner in the fields of Boaz. Ruth converted to belief in the true God during her marriage to Mahlon. It turned out that Boaz was a relative of Elimelech; however, he was not the closest of kin to Naomi. Tob the closest relative, refused them sanctuary. He had been profiting from Elimelech's fields.

Boaz fell in love with Ruth and asked her to marry him. As was the custom, the problem of Naomi's inheritance had to be settled. Boaz approached Tob who was reluctant to give up his rights to Elimelech's land. After numerous years of discussion Tob finally gave up his rights to the land. Boaz then took Ruth as his wife and they had a son named Obed.

Some life lessons we can glean from Ruth and Boaz are:

- A relationship is strong where the greatest bond is faith in God
- A relationship is strong with mutual commitment
- Try to do for each person what is best for the other
- Always be a person of your word
- Be sensitive to others in need
- Practice a sense of responsibility and integrity

Sisters and Brothers always remain faithful to your station in life and be kind to those around you.

In lieu of gifts for our members in attendance, I am making a donation to the Wisconsin Eastern Star Foundation in honor of Ruth.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ruthann Watts, Grand Ruth, Trust in the Lord, 2024-2025