



## **FUNERAL / MEMORIAL SERVICE**

This revision has been prepared under the authority and direction of DeMolay International by the Committee on Ritual and Regalia.

**SEVENTH EDITION**

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## FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE

*This service is appropriate to honor the memory of an Active DeMolay. It may be performed in the home, church, or cemetery, or as a memorial service within the Chapter room. It may either be open or private, at the Chapter's discretion. It may be used as an annual ceremony, to commemorate the death of all the Active members of the Chapter who died during the year, or it may be used for each Active member who passes away. The wording assumes that one member is being honored; when multiple members are being honored, the text should be changed appropriately to fit the situation.*

*The Order of DeMolay is a fraternity, and, as such, is concerned with the welfare of our members and their families, but DeMolay is not a religion and should never allow itself to be seen in that way. If a member's family requests a DeMolay Funeral Service, this Memorial Service can be used as such, but care should be taken to give a copy of the text of the ceremony to the family in advance, so that they can share it with their religious leaders. This ceremony is appropriate for all monotheistic religions in that it should not be considered offensive by any of these traditions. However, it is so generic that it might not satisfy the religious beliefs or requirements of some religious leaders. The Order of DeMolay should never be placed in a position of conflict with any religious leader, or between family members with differing opinions. If any conflict occurs, it is recommended that the Chapter Advisor regretfully decline the request to participate, and delay the performance to a later Memorial Service within the confines of a Chapter meeting.*

*While it is always preferred that DeMolay ceremonies be presented from memory, it is impossible to anticipate the need for a funeral for an Active DeMolay. Therefore, it is acceptable to read the Funeral Service, if necessary, with care taken to assure that the reading is done well, with care, and emphasis and sincerity. It is just as important to rehearse reading aloud as it is to rehearse reciting from memory. A full-page handout is available for download from the DeMolay International website.*

*Required Parts: Master Councilor: M.C., Senior Councilor: S.C., Junior Councilor: J.C., Senior Deacon: S.D., Marshal: Mar., Chaplain: Ch.*

*Required Paraphernalia: None.*

*If this is a funeral service, the Officers take the positions shown on Diagram Two.*

- M.C.** Brethren and friends, as members of the Order of DeMolay we are gathered to pay tribute to the memory of a departed brother, ..... , taken from our ranks while the morning sun was still upon his face. We are gathered to testify to his virtues, to offer the consolation of his fine young life to those who mourn, and to rededicate ourselves to the ideals that he professed.
- M.C.** Brother Marshal, what consolation do you bring in this hour of sorrow?
- Mar.** Our brother knocked at the portals of our Order as a stranger and became a friend and comrade. I bring the consolation of the life of one who was true to all the demands of comradeship and brotherhood.
- M.C.** Brother Senior Deacon, what consolation do you bring?
- S.D.** My office is symbolic of companionship and from that station I bring the consolation of a friendship which will always be cherished by the comrades of our departed brother.
- M.C.** The East is symbolic of the morning of life and from the station of the rising sun I bring the consolation of youth that began so well the journey now so untimely ended. I bring the consolation of obligations to which our brother was true, of trusts to which he was faithful, of morning years which fulfilled their promise until death halted the footsteps that pressed so eagerly toward manhood.
- M.C.** Brother Junior Councilor, what consolation do you bring?

- J.C.** From the station of the meridian sun, I bring the consolation of approaching manhood which, though never reached, was bright with the promise of the noontime. Our brother wore worthily the Crown of Youth while it rested on his brow. He was a good son; he had reverent faith in the goodness of God; his life was gentle with courtesy; he was a trusted comrade; he was faithful to every ideal; his life was clean in word and deed; he loved his country as a loyal citizen; and he displayed all the virtues which our Order enjoins. Had he lived to wear the Crown of Manhood he would have worn it with honor. I bring the consolation of this certainty that only death left unfulfilled.
- M.C.** Brother Senior Councilor, what consolation do you bring?
- S.C.** The West is symbolic of the eve of life and I bring from the station of the setting sun, the consolation of a journey ended, a life well-lived. I bring the sweetest consolation of all - the assurance of the holiest promises of our faith, the attainment of the goal of all our striving, the reward of all our hopes. Our brother's life, cut off in its morning years, is glorified with duties well-performed and upon it shines the splendor of everlasting memory.
- M.C.** My brothers, the consolation we bring at this hour must lighten the grief which we all must feel. To those who were nearest and dearest to our departed brother, we extend our sincere sympathy. Words cannot lessen the sense of irreparable loss, but we can take comfort in the infinite love of the universal Father. We hope the remembrance that our brother was worthy of the comradeship of our Order, and deserved the commendation of all good men, will be a solace in the years to come.
- M.C.** Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.
- Ch.** Our Father, the soul of our departed brother is with Thee. We commit him to Thy loving kindness and beseech Thee to send the peace of Thine infinite love to those closest to our brother. May they find comfort in the remembrance of his virtues; and may we who knew him in the comradeship of DeMolay gain a new inspiration from his life. May we go from this place reconsecrated to the ideals of good sonship and may we strive as never before to be worthy members of our Order. Amen.
- ALL** Amen.
- M.C.** May the holy inspiration of this hour abide with us. May we exemplify in our lives the virtues which we have praised in our brother's life. May we deserve the tributes we have paid this day to the memory of him. Amen.

*If this is a funeral service, at the end of the ceremony, the M.C. and J.C. move toward center position of casket with others following (all facing casket). M.C. and J.C. turn around and retire with others following in pairs as shown on Diagram Two.*