

MISSISSIPPI ROSE CROIX



FUNERAL SERVICE

Revised and reformatted in 2026 by R. Lane Dossett, 33°.

This Ceremony is adapted from the Louisiana funeral ritual, provided by Ill. Eddie LeBoeuf III, 33°, and incorporates elements from the Arkansas funeral ritual, provided by Hon. Lucas Minton, 32°, KCCH and 1846 ritual of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction.

In a return to longstanding tradition, the Orients of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi each independently began efforts in 2025 to restore the practice of performing funeral rites for their honored Scottish Rite Brethren.

Approved for use by

  
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in Mississippi

CAST

Wise Master	(WM)	Speaking
Senior Warden	(SW)	Speaking
Junior Warden	(JW)	Speaking
Chaplain	(Chap)	Speaking
Rose Cross Bearer	(RCB)	
Rose Petal Bearer	(RPB)	
Torch Bearer	(TB)	

STAGING NOTES

This Ceremony is designed to be performed either at the funeral home or gravesite prior to the beginning of the main formal service to distinguish and not interfere with the Blue Lodge Burial Service.

The Wise Master and Chaplain should stand at the head of the casket. Torch Bearer needs to be near the WM to hand the torch.

The Senior Warden and Junior Warden should stand at the foot of the casket.

Rose Petal Bearer needs to be ready to stand near the casket or bowl when needed.

Rose Cross Bearer needs to only be able to lift the cross high where all can see.

If there is an urn, the petals need to be collected in an empty bowl.

Brothers line up double file behind the WM. Wise Master should lead a double file line. Chaplain and SW are in row 2, Rose Cross Bearer and JW row 3, and Rose Petal Bearer and Torch Bearer in row 4. The column with SW, JW and Rose Petal Bearer should be on the same side as the foot of the casket. Adjust accordingly.

In the case of an urn, the Wise Master and the Chaplain should take the left side facing the urn.

The rest of the Brothers fall in behind. The 2 columns split as they approach the casket.

Procession Formation

(Head of Casket ----- Foot of Casket)

Column 1	Column 2
	WM
Chaplain	SW
RCB	JW
RPB	TB
Brothers	Brothers
Brothers	Brothers
Brothers	Brothers

ROSE CROIX FUNERAL SERVICE

WM: Death and the Dead are with us again, my Brethren ... teaching us the brevity and uncertainty of human life, the instability of human fortune, and demanding of us the last sad office of Charity and Brotherhood.

Again, we lament the loss of a Brother who sleeps the sleep that knows no waking.

After we have wept awhile, let us compose the body to burial and bear the loved head that sleeps to his narrow bed, and over it pronounce the ritual of the dead. All which that it be done gravely, decently, and charitably.

We have the examples of all the nations to engage us, and all the ages of the world to warrant, so that it is against honesty and public fame and reputation not to do this office. We are to see that he be buried worshipfully.

My Brethren, the body of our Beloved Brother Sir Knight _____, lies before us overtaken by that relentless fate that sooner or later must overtake us all, teaching us the impressive lesson, continually repeated yet always soon forgotten, that every one of us must ere long dwell in the House of Darkness and our souls must be what we have chosen to make it, even as a man makes it here by living well or ill.

WM: The minutes of our time strike on and are counted by angels, until that period comes which must cease the passing bell to give warning to all our neighbors that we are dead and that they must sometime be so, and this nothing can excuse or delay.

Brother Senior Warden, what is our first duty in this sorrow that has fallen upon us?

SW: Wise Master; to submit without murmuring to the dispensation of our Father who is in Heaven. To pay him the profoundest homage, knowing that all that he wills is infinitely wise and just; and to trust implicitly in his inexhaustible mercy.

WM: Brother Junior Warden, what is the second duty which this misfortune imposes on us?

JW: Wise Master, to inter the body of our Brother after the manner of Masonry, knowing that when we do this for our dead friends, it is not done to persons undiscerning, as a fallen tree, but for one whose soul yet lives, and per adventure, would perceive our neglect, and be witness to our transient affections and forgetfulness; and if not so, yet God see us, for solemn reverence is due the dead, who are now nearer to God than we that are yet for a little while imprisoned in the body.

WM: Very eloquent My Brethren, are the pale, still lips of the dead with a pathos and impressiveness that no living lips can equal or approach? Though these may have been sanctified and made prophetic by coals from the Holy Altar, laid upon them by Angels, these lips of marble preach to us sermons that cannot be translated into words. Most eloquently they tell us how vain and empty are all the ambitions, hatred and jealousies, the disputes and rivalries, the struggles for wealth and place and power, for rank and reputation in life. How indifferent now to all praise and censure, to all undeserved eulogy or equally undeserved blame, to all the prizes of human ambitions, to the glories of human greatness, to all the beatitudes of human love, is this cold and wax like body no longer united with a living soul.

Heavy are the griefs of our personal moral life. Health decays into sickness, hope into disappointment. Death draws near to our little troop of pilgrims. Whenever we pitch our tent, he takes away some beloved head.

We live but to lose those we love, and to see our friends go away out of our sight. New graveyards become populous with the bodies of the dead, which in our childhood were green leaved woods or cultivated fields.

Everywhere about us as we look out into the night, we can see the faces of those we have loved, and who have fallen asleep before us, shining upon us like stars.

Those things that can outlast us, our works, our words, and our immortal thoughts, our influences, and the effect of our good deeds, are more to the world that survives us than we ourselves are. We pass away and are forgotten; but these continue to live. Let the selfish, the covetous and the ambitious learn this lesson and heeding it, endeavor to leave something to live beyond their funerals.

JW: Our life is a span long and yet very tedious, because of the calamities that encircle us on every side.

The days of our pilgrimage are few and evil, and he that liveth longest becomes most familiar with disappointments and sorrow.

SW: While we think a thought, we die, and the clock strikes and records our portion of eternity. We form words with the breath of our nostrils and have the less to live upon with every word we speak.

JW: As the cloud is consumed and vanishes away, so that he goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house. Neither shall his place know him anymore.

SW: We dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which is crushed before the moth. Our days upon earth are a shadow; soon we go whence we shall not return to the land of darkness and the shadow of Death.

JW: Who knoweth not all in these that the hand of the Lord has wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind. He does not despise nor abhor the affliction of the affected. They do not hide their face from Him, but when they crieth unto Him, He hears. He shall redeem our souls from the power of the grave.

WM: Sir Knights, to your devotion.

Chap: Our Father who art in Heaven! Thou givest thy graces and thy favors by the measure of thine own mercies, and in proportion to our necessities. It has pleased thee to call the soul of our Brother _____ from the prison of the body, and our hearts are sorrowful therefore, and very heavy. Look upon us and those whom this death has more sadly bereaved and distressed, in mercy and pity.

Support us and them by the strength and faith in all calamities and refresh us and them with the comforts of a holy hope in all sorrows.

Let not our weakness make us sin in thought against Thee, nor any miseries of this world vex us into repinings and impatience. Unto those who are of the household of our Brother and not yet comforted, make good Thy promise that they who sow in tears shall reap in joy. Prosper our work to thy glory and to all our innocent purposes.

Preserve us from sin, and keep us in peace and holiness, and help us to serve Thee in thankfulness and obedience all the days of our life, and after death, dispose of us according to Thy own pleasure. Amen!

ALL: So Mote It Be!

TORCH CEREMONY

(TB hands torch to WM. WM steps in front of the casket and faces the casket)

(raises torch above head)

WM: My Brother we mourn for thee;

(lowers torch to chest high)

WM: We call upon thee to answer us;

(lowers torch to waist high)

WM: Hearest thou our call!

(repeat actions and words two more times)

(WM returns to his position)

WM: Our Brother answers not our call. Once he lived and labored, but now his star is set on this world and he has passed into the Light that lies beyond the darkness of the valley of the shadow of Death. In vain we called upon him here. We shall no more hear his voice until we also shall have awakened in another world. Let us then, not mourning like those who have no hope, pay the last sad offices of pious duty to the dead, since he, like one who sails slowly away for the shores of a dear land a little while ago familiar to him, and yet hears in the stillness of the night the murmur of the waves among the cliffs blended with our voices, and see as the Angels do.

ROSES CEREMONY

(Rose Petal Bearer takes position near casket or empty bowl. Senior Warden steps forward with his rose, approaches the casket, raises his rose with the triple salute, kisses rose and places it on the body.)

SW: Alas, my Brother!

(The other members of the ritual team [Junior Warden goes next, then the Chaplain and anyone else that has a full rose], EXCEPT THE WISE MASTER, step forward and present their roses.)

WM: I now invite all Master Masons to step forward and place a rose petal in the casket.

(The brothers will line up single file and will also perform the triple salute and kiss the rose petal and place it in the casket while saying, "Alas my Brother.")

(When all the Master Masons are done, the WM invites friends and family to place a rose petal in the casket.)

WM: I now invite all family and friends of Bro. _____, who wish to do so, to deposit a rose petal.

(When all who desire to do so have placed a rose petal in the casket, the ritual resumes.)

WM: Brother Junior Warden, perform your duty.

(Junior Warden Steps Forward)

JW: All animosities, grudges and unreconciled differences among masons cease at the dark river of Death, over which our Brother has gone.

(Rose Cross Bearer (RCB) raises the Rose Cross)

(JW points to the cross)

JW: If any Brother has felt toward him dislike, ill-will or jealousy, I do, by this symbol of the Rose Croix, charge him, and these pale cold lips eloquently entreat him, to forgive the wrong and cast away the animosity forever, that our Father who is in Heaven may forgive him his debts and trespasses as he forgives those of his dead Brother.

(JW steps back to his position.)

(RCB lowers cross)

WM: Brother Senior Warden, perform your duty.

(SW steps forward)

SW: The memories of and examples of the good and true Knight who leaves us these legacies are the precious treasures of Masonry. Our praises of them ought to be preserved like laurel and coronets, to reward and encourage the noblest things, and it is an office and charge of humanity to speak no evil of the dead.

(Rose Cross Bearer (RCB) raises the Rose Cross)

(SW points to the Rose Cross)

SW: By this holy symbol of the Rosey Cross, all the Brethren of the dead here present do, by my lips, solemnly promise to speak hereafter only of the virtues and excellence of him whose body we are about to commit to the earth, and to be silent as to his error, his failures, and his faults, lest we ourselves should be spoken ill of by men after we are dead, and become untitled to the charitable mercies of God.

(SW steps back to his position)

(RCB lowers cross)

WM: Dead persons have religion passed upon them and a solemn reverence, and whatsoever is a matter of duty toward our dead, God does exact. What do we do for the dead, or to the living for their sake is gratitude, and virtue for virtue's sake and the noblest portion of Humanity.

(Rose Cross Bearer (RCB) raises the Rose Cross)

(WM points to the Rose Cross)

WM: Therefore and because we are hereunto obligated by the Laws and Constitution and solemn obligation of Masonry, we do, by this symbol of the Rosey Cross, solemnly give to him whose body lies here before us, our pledge that we will protect and cherish those whom he has left behind him, who were near and dear to him, and will keep them from harm, and perform in their behalf all the duties of Masons, Brethren and Knights of the Rosey Cross, expecting God to exact of us the due performance of this pledge.

(RCB lowers cross)

My Brethren, the lesson which Death continually repeats to us is impatiently listened to and soon forgotten. So, it has ever been since the making of the world, and so it will be until the end.

Men will continue to live riotously and toil and plot, as if never to die, and as unconcernedly see others carried to their graves as the green leaves of an oak see a single leaf wither and drop untimely in the summer. It is a natural wish that sweet flowers should grow upon the graves of those we love.

In paradise we think they never wither. God has written manifold and wondrous truths in the stars, but the revelation of His love is not less plain in the flowers that are stars of the earth. Emblems of our own Great Resurrection, emblems of the brighter, better land.

(Chaplain spreads remaining rose petals over the body)

WM: We strew these rose petals on the body of our friend as an apt expression of our affection, and equally of hope and of reliance of that beneficence of which they are the unmistakable and eloquent expression.

(WM steps forward and deposits his rose)

WM: May He Rest In Peace!

(WM returns to his station)

(RCB presents bowl with salt crystals to WM)

WM: By the covenant of salt, God gave the Kingdom of Israel to David and his sons; and in the law it is written, “Neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy offerings of flesh; with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.”

I sprinkle salt upon our Brother [*done*] in renewal of our covenant with him of whom this body was a part; and also in token of our belief in the resurrection of the dead and life eternal. We shall see our Brother again. That which is here sown in corruption will be raised in incorruption; and that which is sown a natural body will be raised a spiritual body. Our Brother still lives, though the breath of his life has returned to God that gave it. This is our Faith, our Hope, and our Assurance.

Let us endeavor so to live, my Brethren, as to deserve to have our life continued after this life in the body shall have ended; since otherwise it cannot but be punishment and weariness, and not a recompense and a blessing. The wise and good who die do leave their relics in the land, in influences and examples, in noble thoughts to be remembered, and heroic deeds to be imitated; and though no shrine is carved about their dust, nor any fragrant lamp is burned before their

bones, they are enshrined in many hearts, and the gratitude and veneration of men shed inextinguishable light upon their memories.

WM: Join me in prayer.

(Sign of the Good Shepard is given)

Our Father by Whom we live! It has pleased Thee to take away from this world our beloved Brother, and to leave us in his stead only this mortal and decaying tenement, which we do now commit to the earth.

Enlarge and increase, O God our Father, all his influences for good that do survive him, and in Thy Wisdom, and by meet instruments, counteract all those that tend to evil. Let us not forget the lessons again taught us by Death, but, remembering the uncertainty of life, and the little value of those things for which men do most strive, incline us more earnestly to endeavor to obey Thy laws, avoid dissensions, hatreds, and revenges, and labor to do good to our fellow-men; that so it may be desirable for us and profitable to us to live beyond this life, in the spiritual existence for which we hope.

Console his relatives in their affliction, and sustain them in all the adversities and trials

which they may have to encounter in this world; and may they and we, loving and serving Thee, and trusting in Thy Infinite Beneficence, be in Thy good time gathered in peace unto our fathers, and again meet our friend and Brother, nearer to Thy Throne of Glory! Amen!

RING CEREMONY - OPTIONAL

WM: This ring (*or a ring like it*) was given to Bro. _____ as a visible token of the compact he made with us. Its motto in Latin is, *Virtus Junxit Mors non Separabit*, “What Virtue has united, Death shall not separate.”

Upon the ring you will find an equilateral triangle...Within this triangle is the Hebrew letter Yod. The letter Yod represents a point, a divine spark, and a hand reaching towards heaven, symbolizing God's omnipresence and the yearning for a divine union with him. Our Brother promised that he would wear ring, or display it, during his lifetime unless superseded by a 33rd degree ring should he have attained that honor. He promised to provide that at his death it would go into the hands of no other than his widow, eldest son, or friend he loved above all others but not to be worn by them unless they attain the 14th or “Degree of Perfection.”

I now present this ring to you on behalf of our beloved Brother.

CLOSING

WM: Brother Chaplain, please give the Benediction.

Chap: 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. Amen!

WM: On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Valley of _____ of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, I would like to thank the family of our departed Brother

_____, for allowing us to provide this service for our Brother.

This concludes the Rose Croix Service for Sir Knight: _____.

WM: Sir Knights, Return to your places.

(Cast retires in same manner they entered)