

CLOSING CHAPTER

Ritual pgs. 45 – 47

Book of Instruction pgs. 67 – 69

- The Worthy Matron should always ask for items for the “**Good of the Order**” so if there is something the members would like to say, they have a chance to say it before the closing ceremony.
- When the Worthy Matron asks the Associate Matron if there is further business to come before the chapter, this begins the closing ceremony. **If there is further business, it is taken care of and the question to the Associate Matron is repeated.**
 - The Worthy Matron addresses the Associate Matron.
 - The Worthy Matron instructs the Warder to inform the Sentinel that the Chapter is about to be closed.
 - The Chapter is called up and the Closing Ode is sung.
 - The Worthy Matron instructs the Chaplain to lead the Chapter in prayer. The Chaplain approaches the Altar as in the opening (arms at her/his side). She/he waits for the music to stop then kneels if possible. After the prayer is completed, the Chaplain steps back into the circle of officers between Martha and Esther and assumes the Reverent Attitude.
 - Chaplain uses the method for returning to the edge of the labyrinth as defined in the instructions for the Altar Service:

Backing to the edge of the Labyrinth: (Conductress and Chaplain)

- The Conductress and the Chaplain step back from the altar, eyes on the Bible, and pause reverently. Turn outward and walk forward to assume their place in the officers’ circle at the edge of the Labyrinth, turn inward to assume their position in the circle.
- For the Conductress, she turns to the **right** when leaving the altar **and** when reaching her place in the circle of officers at the edge of the labyrinth. .
- For the Chaplain, she/he turns to the **left** when leaving the altar **and** left when reaching her/his place in the circle of officers at the edge of the labyrinth.
- The Worthy Matron instructs the Conductress to attend at the Altar.
- The Conductress approaches the Altar as in the opening and waits for the music to stop. She gives the Salutation sign to the Open Bible and all members repeat to themselves **“We go forth into the world to live our Obligation.”**
 - The Conductress:
 - Slowly but reverently closes the Bible using the “5 second rule”
 - Makes a slight nod to the Worthy Matron
 - Moves back into the circle of officers between Ruth and Esther and remains there until the Chapter is closed. She does not assume the Reverent Attitude.
- All members drop the Reverent Attitude.
- The Worthy Matron gives the farewell then gives a slight rap of the gavel (*) on the word “closed”.

- The Worthy Matron instructs the Warder to inform the Sentinel that chapter is closed. The Warder returns to her/his station making no report to the Worthy Matron.
- The music begins and the Conductress and Chaplain return to their stations. They turn outward and retrace their steps to the point of the acute angle and return to their stations.
- When all officers are back at their stations, the Worthy Matron is seated which signals everyone to sit **without a rap of the gavel.**
- If there is an addendum it would be done at this time. If not, The Worthy Matron would say, “The Officers will retire.”
- **Any presentations, coin marches, special addendum are performed after the Chapter is closed.**