

**MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS
STATE OF WASHINGTON AND JURISDICTION**

OPENING AND CLOSING



PROCEDURES

REVISED 24 August 2026

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PREAMBLE

This book was written at the direction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, William C. Rheubottom, by R.W. Past Grand Lecturer Edward Crumb. This pamphlet is not intended to replace any of the accepted documents which this Sovereign Jurisdiction accepts as a guide. Its basic purpose is to bring together in one immediately accessible document, those practices that have been approved by this Grand Jurisdiction over the years.

There are a number of subjects not addressed in this book but are historically located and found in other (Masonic) publications. It is recommended that each Master Mason has at a minimum for his personal use of the following books:

Masonic Code of the Most Worshipful Prince Haft Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Washington and its Jurisdiction, 1977 Revision/2019 Update.

⇒ *Masonic Ritual*

⇒ *Washington Monitor and Freemason's Guide to the Symbolic Degrees*

⇒ *Your Lodge By-Laws*

⇒ *The Holy Bible*

It is sincerely hoped that this pamphlet will be a handy, worthwhile and valuable tool to the Officers of the Lodge in particular, the Craft and those aspiring to progress in general. Remember, the truly learned Master Mason cannot simply read, he must study, which means going beyond pamphlets such as this and cross-referencing other documents.

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OPENING

WM: *Call Lodge to order (one rap)* Brothers take your stations.

WM: Bro JD, see if the Tyler is present. If he is, have him approach the altar.

JD: *(Rise, go the outer door and say)* “Brother Tyler, the WM wants you to approach the Altar”

Tyl: *(Goes west of the Altar and faces the East)*

WM: Bro Tyler, your place in the Lodge?

Tyl: The outer door.

WM: Your duties there?

Tyl: To observe the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, see that none pass or repass except such as are duly qualified and have permission of the WM.

WM: Bro. Tyler approach the East to receive the badge and implement of your office.

Tyl: *(Tyler Approaches the East on the South side of the lodge)*

WM: (Place the Tyler’s badge around the Tyler’s neck, and place the point of the sword on his heart (WM’s Heart); with his hands, hold the sword in place like an EA. The Tyler, with his hands in the form of an EA, takes the sword from the WM in three movements

WM: Bro. Tyler, be in active discharge of your duties at this time.

Tyl: *(Goes to outer door; the door is not sealed at this time.)*

WM: *(Raps once with gavel)* Bro JD.

JD: *(Rises)* WM.

WM: The first great care of Masons when convened?

JD: To see that they are duly tyled.

WM: Attend to that duty and inform the Tyler that I am about to open ____ Lodge No. ____ on the third degree of Masonry; direct him to take due notice thereof and govern himself accordingly.

JD: *(Speaking through open door)* Bro Tyler.

Tyl: Bro JD

JD: I am directed to inform you that the WM is about to open ____ Lodge No. ____, on the third degree of Masonry; take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

(Door is closed, JD gives three raps with door knocker and is answered by three knocks from without, given by Tyler) WM.

WM: Bro JD.

JD: We are duly tyled.

WM: How are we tyled?

JD: By a Master Mason without, armed with the proper implement of his office

WM: His duties there?

JD: To observe the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, see that none pass or repass except such as are duly qualified and have permission of the WM.

WM: Bro SW.

SW: *(Rises)* WM.

WM: Are all present, Master Masons?

SW: I will ascertain to my proper officer and report, Bro JD.

JD: *(Takes staff and steps in front of SW)* Bro SW

SW: Are all present Master Masons?

JD: *(Stands and move in front of the SW station and look around both sides of the Lodge. If he sees any strangers, he will stop and report);* Bro SW, here is a gentleman for whom I cannot vouch as a Master Mason.

SW: Cause the gentleman to rise.

JD: *(To the stranger)* Please rise.

SW: Will any brother present vouch for this gentleman as a Master Mason (If vouched for) The vouch is accepted. If not, turn to the stranger) Please retire or a few minutes until a committee can be appointed to examine you.

JD: *(Standing before the SW)* Bro. SW

SW: Bro JD

JD: All present are Master Masons

SW: WM

WM: SW

SW: All present are Master Masons

WM: As further evidence that all present are Master Mason, receive the password from the S & JD's who will obtain it from the brethren on the right and left and communicate it to the East.

SW: Deacons approach the West *(Deacons meet West of the Altar and approach together.)* Give me the password of Master Masons. *(Deacons give password, first)* now obtain it from the brethren on the right and left and communicate it to WM in the East

S/JD: *(Proceed, each on his side of the Lodge. If there are any without the password, they will stop as before and report)* WM.

WM: Bro S (or J) Deacon

Dcn: There is confusion in the craft

WM: What is the cause of the confusion?

Dcn: A brother without the password.

WM: Cause the brother to rise.

Dcn: *(To the brother)* Please rise

WM: Will any brother present vouch for this brother as a Master Mason in good standings? *(If vouched for)* The vouch is accepted. *To the Deacon* Invest him with the password and receive it from him. *(A Brother may only be vouched for if you have sat in open Lodge with him.)*

(If not vouched for, the WM will ask him to retire for a few minutes and appoint a committee to examine him.) Deacons continue and then communicate the password to the WM in the East, the SD first, JD next. They return to their stations.

WM: Bros. Be clothed *(After Bros. are clothed and on the due guard)*

WM: Bro SW

SW: WM

WM: Are all brothers properly clothed?

SW: *(Look around the lodge room to see if all brothers have on aprons, gloves, and if officers have on their collars)* WM, all Bros. are properly clothed

WM: (Raps once and seat brethren) Bro. S.W.

SW: W.M.

WM: The password is right and duly received in the East. Are you a Master Mason?

SW: I am

WM: What induced you to become a Master Mason?

SW: That I might obtain the Master's word, travel in foreign countries, work and receive master's wages and be thereby enabled to support myself and family and contribute to the relief of distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans

WM: What makes you a Master Mason?

SW: My obligation

WM: Where were you made a Master Mason?

SW: Within the body of a just and duly constituted Lodge of Master Masons, assembled in a place representing the unfinished Sanctum Sanatorium of KST, furnished with the Holy Bible, Square & Compasses, together with a Charter or Dispensation from some Grand Body of competent jurisdiction empowering it to work

WM: How many composed a Master Mason Lodge?

SW: Three or more

WM: When composed of five, of whom does it consist?

SW: The WM, SW, JW, S & JD

WM: The JD place in the Lodge?

SW: At my right

WM: *(Gives two raps with this gavel, All officers rise.)* Bro JD

JD: WM.

WM: Your Duty?

JD: To carry messages from the SW in the West to the JW in the south, and elsewhere about the Lodge as he may direct; attend to alarms at the outer door, report the same to the WM. Also to see that we are duly tyled.

WM: The SD Place?

JD: At the right of the WM in the East.

WM: SD

SD: WM

WM: Your Duty?

SD: To carry orders from the WM in the East to the SW in the West, and elsewhere about the Lodge as he may direct; welcome and clothe visiting brethren, attend to alarms at the inner door. Also to receive and conduct candidates.

WM: The JW's station?

SD: In the South

WM: Bro JW

JW: WM

WM: Your duty in the South?

JW: To observe the sun at meridian, which is the glory and beauty of the day, call the craft from labor to refreshment, superintend them during the hours thereof, careful to observe that the means of refreshment are not perverted to intemperance or excess, see that they return to their labor in due season; that the WM may receive honor and they pleasure and profit thereby.

WM: The SW Station?

JW: In the West.

WM: Bro SW.

SW: WM.

WM: Why in the West?

SW: As the sun is in the West at the close of the day, so stands the SW in the West to assist the WM in opening and closing the Lodge, pay the craft their wages, if any due, see that none may go away dissatisfied if in my power to prevent, harmony being

the support of all institution, especially this of ours.

WM: The Master station?

SW: In the East.

WM: Why in the East?

SW: As the sun rises in the East to open and govern the day, so rises the WM in the East **(WM: Three raps, Lodge rises)** to open and govern the Lodge, set the craft at work, giving them proper instructions for their labor.

WM: Bro SW it is my order that _____ Lodge No. ____ be now open on the third degree of Masonry and stand open for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before it. This communicate to the JW in the South, and he to the brethren present, that having due notice thereof, they may govern themselves accordingly.

SW: Bro JW

JW: Bro SW

SW: It is the order the WM that _____ Lodge No. _____ be now open on the third degree of Masonry and stand open for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before it. This communicate to the brethren present, that having due notice thereof, they may govern themselves accordingly.

JW: Brethren, it is the order of the WM communicated to me through the SW in the West that _____ Lodge No. ____ be now open on the third degree of Masonry and stand open for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before it. I communicate the same to you that having due notice thereof, you may govern yourselves, accordingly, observe the East.

(WM, SW and JW goes in front of their stations, all brothers form a square around the lodge in line with the WM, SW and JW)

WM: Brethren, attend to giving the signs: **(The signs of the three degrees are given by all present, taking directions from the WM, working from EA to MM)**

WM: **(Three raps with his gavel)**

SW: *(Three raps)*

JW: *(Three raps) (JW lowers column & SW raised column)*

WM: Bro S & JD, escort and arch the Chaplain at the altar for the purpose of prayer

WM: Brethren, give attention to the Chaplain

PRAYER

Chp: Most holy and glorious Lord God, the Great Architect of the Universe, the Giver of all good gifts and graces; Thou has promised that “Where two or more are gathered in Thy name, thou wilt be in their midst and bless them. In thy name we have assembled and, in Thy name, we desire to proceed in all our doings. Grant that the sublime principles of Free Masonry may subdue every discordant passion within us, so harmonize and enrich our hearts with Thine own Love and goodness, that the Lodge at this time may humbly reflect that order and beauty which reign forever before thy throne. Amen.

Chp: Amen

All: So mote it be

Chp: Amen

All: So mote it be

Chp: Amen

All: So mote it be

WM: Bro SD

SD: WM

WM: Attend at the altar and display the three great lights in Masonry

SD: *Goes to West of the altar*

SD: I will now display the three Great lights of Masonry, with the aid of the three lesser

(Lights the three lesser lights in the following manner: goes to East corner of altar and lights the light of Wisdom; then goes South of the altar and lights the light of Beauty; then West of the altar and lights the light of Strength. Then goes west of altar, facing East, and opens the Holy Bible, Square, and Compass on the Third Degree

SD: WM, the altar is square

WM: How square

SD: By three burning tapers triangular about the altar; on the altar is the Holy Bible, Square and Compass. The Bible is open to Ecclesiastes XII. Both points of the Compass above the Square, the Square is to the master and Compass to the Craft.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

WM: I now declare the Lodge duly open and in order for business; at the same time, strictly forbidding all idle, immoral other unmasonic conduct, whereby the harmony of the same may be disturbed under no less a penalty than the by-laws prescribe or a majority of the brethren present may see cause to inflict. **Bro JD**

JD: WM

WM: Inform the Tyler

JD: ***(Gives three knocks on the outer door, which are answered by three from the Tyler. Then one from within and one from without...then door is opened.)***

JD: The Lodge is open on the third degree of Masonry.

JD: WM

WM: Bro JD

JD: The Tyler is informed

WM: If there are present, any present or past Grand Lodge Officers, present or past

Masters, you are cordially and fraternally invited to a seat in the East. ***(Gives one rap, Lodge is seated.)***

ORDER OF BUSINESS

(Suggested but not limited to)

- 1. Opening of Lodge***
- 2. Roll call of Officers***
- 3. Reading of minutes from last regular or special communication***
- 4. Sickness and Distress***
- 5. Demits into the Lodge***
- 6. Demits from the Lodge***
- 7. Reinstatements***
- 8. Petition for Membership***
- 9. Report on Membership***
- 10. Reports of committees***
- 11. Available balance in Treasury***
- 12. Reading of Incoming Correspondence***
- 13. Old Business brought before the Lodge***
- 14. New Business brought before the Lodge***
- 15. Work of the Lodge***
- 16. Treasurer Report***
- 17. Charity Collected and turned over to Chaplain***
- 18. Presentation***
- 19. Officer Comments***
- 20. Other Brethren Comments***
- 21. Past Master '5 Council Comments/Lecture***
- 22. Worshipful Master's Lecture/Comments***
- 23. Reading and Approval of Minutes***
- 24. Closing***

Sec: *(Secretary calls roll of officers, answered by the SD, who is standing.)*

READING OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

WM: Bro Sec

Sec: *(Rises under due guard)* WM

WM: Bro Sec, please read the minutes of our last stated communication. *(The minutes are read by the Secretary.)*

WM: Brethren, these are the minutes of our last stated communication; they were read and approved and are now read for your information.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

WM: Bro Secretary, do you have anything to report under sickness and distress from our last stated Staff Meeting. *(Sec answers)*

WM: Bro SW

SW: *(Rises under due guard)* WM

WM: Have you anything to report?

SW: Nothing in the West. *(Or reports if any)*

WM: Bro JW, anything in the South?

JW: *(Rises under due guard)* Nothing in the South (Or reports if any)

Does any brother know of a brother in sickness or distress, or in need of our aid and sympathy? *(Reports if any, given)*

REPORTS ON PETITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

WM: Bro Sec, have you any reports on petitions for membership?

Sec: I have a report upon the petition of _____. *The investigating committee goes to the altar and gives the report.*

WM: Brethren, what is your pleasure in reference to this report?

Bro: WM

WM: Bro from Lodge

Bro: I move that the report be received, the committee discharged and the candidate balloted upon

WM: If there are no objections, it is so ordered. There being none, it is so ordered. *(One rap)* Bro SD, prepare the ballot.

SD: *(Takes the ballot box and puts it in order.)*

WM: Display it South, West, and East for inspection. *(Done)(WM takes ballot box.)* Brethren, we are about to ballot upon the petition of _____, on whom our committee has reported favorably: a white ball elects, a black square or cube rejects.

(WM ballots and hands box to SD.) Carry it to the S & JW for their ballots: Ballot yourself and place it on the altar for the ballots of the brethren. *(Done)* Brethren, proceed to ballot in due form, which is by giving due guard and sign of Master Masons, in front of the Altar.

(The SD stands at Northeast corner; JD at southeast corner of Altar, with their backs to the ballot box and facing South and North respectively, repeating: "Ball elect, cubes reject")

WM: Bro JW

JW: *(Rises under due guard)* WM

WM: Have all balloted in the South?

JW: All in the South

WM: Bro SW

SW: *(Rises under due guard)*

WM: Have all balloted in the West?

SW: All in the West

WM: And all in the East. I therefore declare the ballot closed. *(One rap) (Ballot box is closed by SD)* Bro SD

SD: WM

WM: Carry the ballot South, West and East for inspection. *(Done) (After WM inspects ballot),* Bro JW

JW: WM

WM: How stands the ballot in the South?

JW: Clear *(Cloudy, if black cubes are seen),* in the South

WM: Bro SW

SW: WM

WM: How in the West?

SW: Clear *(or cloudy)* in the West

WM: And clear *(or cloudy)* in the East. Accordingly, I declare ____ eligible to receive the three symbolic degrees. (I declare his application rejected *(if cloudy)*). Bro Sec, you will inform him, and return his petition fee

Note: The WM has the prerogative of running the ballot one **(1)** more time if he feels Someone may have mistakenly cast a cloudy ballot

WM: Bro Sec

Sec: WM

WM: Have you any petitions on your desk?

Sec: I have *(reads petition)*

WM: Brethren, what is your pleasure with this petition?

Bro: WM

WM: Lodge Bro

Bro: I move that the petition be received and referred to a committee or investigation

Bro: I second the motion

WM: All brethren in favor of the motion will give the ancient sign of mason *(Done)* All opposed, give similar sign. It is so ordered. *(One rap)* Petition is turned over to the Investigating Committee.

Reports of Committee

Unfinished Business

New Business

OPENING - SHORT FORM

It is recognized that there are valid times when a lodge should be opened and/or closed in short form. This method should not be used arbitrarily as it will degrade the proficiency and initiative of your officers.

WM: Call Lodge to order (one rap) Brothers take your stations.

WM: Bro JD, see if the Tyler is present. If he is, have him approach the altar.

JD: *(Rise, go the outer door and say)* "Brother Tyler, the WM wants you to approach the Altar."

Tyl: *(Goes west of the Altar and faces the East.)*

WM: Bro Tyler, your place in the Lodge?

Tyl: The outer door.

WM: Your duties there?

Tyl: To observe the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, see that none pass or repass except such as are duly qualified and have permission of the WM.

WM: Bro. Tyler approach the East to receive the badge and implement of your office.

Tyl: *(Tyler Approaches the East on the South side of the Lodge)*

WM: *(Place the Tyler's badge around the Tyler's neck, and place the point of the sword on his heart (WM's heart); with his hands, hold the sword in place like an EA. The Tyler, with his hands in the form of an EA, takes the sword from the WM in three movements.*

WM: Bro. Tyler be in active discharge of your duties at this time.

Tyl: *(Goes to outer door; the door is not sealed at this time.)*

WM: *(Raps once with gavel)* Bro JD.

JD: *(Rises)* WM.

WM: The first great care of Masons when convened?

JD: To see that they are duly tyled.

WM: Attend to that duty and inform the Tyler that I am about to open ____ Lodge No. ____ on the third degree of Masonry; direct him to take due notice thereof and govern himself accordingly.

JD: *(Speaking through open door)* Bro Tyler.

Tyl: Bro JD

JD: I am directed to inform you that the WM is about to open ____ Lodge No. ____, on the third degree of Masonry: take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

(Door is closed, JD gives three raps with door knocker and is answered by three knocks from without, given by Tyler)

WM: Bro JD.

JD: We are duly tyled.

WM: How are we tyled?

JD: By a Master Mason without, armed with the proper implement of his office

WM: His duties there?

JD: To observe the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, see that none pass or repass accept such as are duly qualified and have permission of the WM

WM: Bro SW.

SW: ***(Rises)*** WM.

WM: Are all present Master Masons?

SW: I will ascertain to my proper officer and report, Bro JD

JD: ***(Takes staff and steps in front of SW)*** Bro SW

SW: Are all present Master Masons?

JD: ***(Stands and move in front of the SW station and look around both sides of the Lodge. If he sees any strangers, he will stop and report)***; Bro SW, here is a gentleman for whom I cannot vouch as a Master Mason

SW: Cause the gentleman to rise.

JD: ***(To the stranger)*** Please rise.

SW: Will any brother present vouch for this gentleman as a Master Mason ***(If vouched for)*** The vouch is accepted. If not, turn to the stranger) Please retire for a few minutes until a committee can be appointed to examine you.

JD: *(Standing before the SW)* Bro. SW

SW: Bro JD

JD: All present are Master Masons

SW: WM

WM: SW

SW: All present are Master Masons

WM: As further evidence that all present are Master Mason, receive the password from the S & JD's who will obtain it from the brethren on the right and left and communicate it to the East.

SW: Deacons approach the West *(Deacons meet West of the Altar and approach together.)* Give me the password of Master Masons. *(Deacons give password, SD first)* now obtain it from the brethren on the right and left and communicate it to WM in the East

S/JD: *(Proceed, each on his side of the Lodge. If there are any without the password, they will stop as before and report)* WM.

WM: Bro S (or J) Deacon

Dcn: There is confusion in the craft

WM: What is the cause of the confusion?

Dcn: A brother without the password.

WM: Cause the brother to rise.

Dcn: *(To the brother)* Please rise

WM: Will any brother present vouch for this brother as a Master Mason in good standings? *(If vouched for)* The vouch is accepted. *To the Deacon* Invest him with the password and receive it from him. *(If not vouched for, the WM will ask him to*

retire for a few minutes and appoint a committee to examine him.) Deacons continue and then communicate the password to the WM in the East, the SD first, JD next. They return to their stations. (A Brother may only be vouched for if you have sat in open Lodge with him.)

WM: Bros. Be clothed (*After Bros. are clothed and on the due guard*)

WM: Bro SW

SW: WM

WM: Are all brothers properly clothed?

SW: (*Look around the lodge room to see if all brothers have on aprons, gloves, and if officers have on their collars*) WM, all Bros. are properly clothed.

WM: (*Raps once and seat brethren*) Bro. S.W.

SW: W.M.

WM: The password is right and duly received in the East. Are you a Master Mason?

SW: I am

WM: What induced you to become a Master Mason?

SW: That I might obtain the Master's word, travel in foreign countries, work and receive master's wages and be thereby enabled to support myself and family and contribute to the relief of distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans

WM: What makes you a Master Mason?

SW: My obligation

WM: Where were you made a Master Mason?

SW: Within the body of a just and duly constituted Lodge of Master Masons, assembled in a place representing the unfinished Sanctum Sanctorium of KST, furnished with the Holy Bible, Square & Compasses, together with a Charter or Dispensation from some Grand Body of competent jurisdiction empowering it to work

WM: How many composed a Master Mason Lodge?

SW: Three or more

WM: When composed of five, of whom does it consist?

SW: The WM, SW, JW, S & JD

WM: The JD place in the Lodge?

SW: At my right

WM: (*Gives two raps with this gavel, All officers rise.*) Bro JD

JD: WM

WM: The SD Place?

JD: At the right of the WM in the East

WM: Bro. SD.

SD: WM

WM: The JW's station?

SD: In the South

WM: Bro JW

JW: WM

WM: Your duty in the South?

JW: To observe the sun at meridian, which is the glory and beauty of the day, call the craft from labor to refreshment, superintend them during the hours thereof, careful to observe that the means of refreshment are not perverted to intemperance or excess, see that they return to their labor in due season; that the WM may receive honor and they pleasure and profit thereby

WM: The SW Station?

JW: In the West.

WM: Bro SW.

SW: WM.

WM: Why in the West?

SW: As the sun is in the West at the close of the day, so stands the SW in the West to assist the WM in opening and closing the Lodge, pay the craft their wages, if any due, that none may go away dissatisfied, harmony being the support of all institution, especially this of ours.

WM: The Master station?

SW: In the East.

WM: Why in the East?

SW: As the sun rises in the East to open and govern the day, so rises the WM in the East **(Three raps, Lodge rises)** to open and govern the Lodge, set the craft at work, giving them proper instructions for their labor.

WM: Bro SW it is my order that _____ Lodge No. ____ be now open on the third degree of Masonry, and stand open for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before it. This communicate to the JW in the South, and he to the brethren present, that having due notice thereof, they may govern themselves accordingly.

SW: Bro JW

JW: Bro SW

SW: It is the order the WM that ____ Lodge No. ____ be now open on the third degree of Masonry, and stand open for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before it. This communicate to the brethren present, that having due notice thereof, they may govern themselves accordingly.

JW: Brethren, it is the order of the WM communicated to me through the SW in the West that ____ Lodge No. ____ now open on the third degree of Masonry and stand open for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before it. I communicate the same to you that having due notice thereof, you may govern yourselves, accordingly, observe the East.

(WM, SW and JW goes in front of their stations, all brothers form a square around the lodge in line with the WM, SW and JW)

WM: Brethren, attend to giving the signs: ***(The signs of the three degrees are given by all present, taking time from the WM, working from EA to MM)***

WM: ***(Three raps with his gavel)***

SW: ***(Three raps)***

JW: ***(Three raps)***

WM: Bro S & JD, escort and arch the Chaplain at the altar for the purpose of prayer.

WM: Brethren, give attention to the Chaplain

PRAYER

Chp: Most holy and glorious Lord God, the Great Architect of the Universe, the Giver of all good gifts and graces; Thou has promised that "Where two or more are gathered in Thy name, thou wilt be in their midst and bless them. " In thy name we have assembled and, in Thy name, we desire to proceed in all our doings. Grant that the sublime principles of Free Masonry may subdue every discordant passion within us, so harmonize and enrich our hearts with Thine own Love and goodness, that the Lodge at this time may humbly reflect that order and beauty which reign forever before thy throne. Amen.

All: So mote it be

Chp: Amen

All: So mote it be

Chp: Amen

All: So mote it be

WM: Bro SD

SD: WM

WM: Attend at the altar and display the three great lights in Masonry

SD: Goes to West of the altar

SD: I will now display the three Great lights of Masonry, by the aid of the three lesser

(Lights the three lesser lights in the following manner: goes to East corner of altar and lights the light of Wisdom; then goes South of the altar and lights the light of Beauty; then West of the altar and lights the light of Strength. Then goes west of altar, facing East, and opens the Holy Bible, Square, and Compass on the Third Degree

SD: WM, the altar is square

WM: How square

SD: By three burning tapers triangular about the altar; on the altar is the Holy Bible, Square and Compass. The Bible is open to Ecclesiastes XII. Both points of the Compass above the Square, the Square is to the master and Compass to the Craft.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

WM: I now declare the Lodge duly open and in order for business; at the same time, strictly forbidding all idle, immoral other unmasonic conduct, whereby the harmony of the same may be disturbed under no less a penalty than the by-laws prescribe or a majority of the Brethren present may see cause to inflict. Bro JD

JD: WM

WM: Inform the Tyler

JD: (Gives three knocks on the outer door, which are answered by three from the Tyler. Then one from within and one from without...then door is opened.)

JD: The Lodge is open on the third degree of Masonry.

JD: WM

WM: Bro JD

JD: The Tyler is informed

WM: If there are present, any present or past Grand Lodge Officers, present or past Masters, they are cordially and fraternally invited to a seat in the East. If ***(Gives one rap, Lodge is seated.)***

CLOSING

WM: ***(Raps once with gavel)*** Bro JD

JD: (Rises) WM

WM: The last as well as first great care of Masons when convened?

JD: To see that they are duly tyled

WM: Attend to that duty and inform the Tyler that I am about to close _____ Lodge No. __, on the third degree of Masonry; direct him to take due notice thereof and govern himself accordingly

JD: (Gives three knocks on the outer door, which are answered by three from the Tyler, one additional knock is given by the JD and one from the Tyler and the door is opened.) Bro Tyler

Tyl: Bro JD

JD: I am directed to inform you that the WM is about to close ____ Lodge No. __, on the third degree of Masonry; take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

(Door is closed, JD gives three raps with door knocker and is answered by three knocks from without, given by Tyler) WM.

WM: Bro JD.

JD: We are duly tyled.

WM: How are we tyled?

JD: By a Master Mason without, armed with the proper implement of his office.

WM: His duties there?

JD: To observe the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, see that none pass or repasses except such as are duly qualified and have permission of the WM.

WM: Bro SW.

SW: WM

WM: Are you a Master Mason?

SW: I am

WM: What induced you to become a Master Mason?

SW: That I might obtain the Master's word, travel in foreign countries, work and receive master's wages and be thereby enabled to support myself and family and contribute to the relief of distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans

WM: What makes you a Master Mason?

SW: My obligation

WM: Where were you made a Master Mason?

SW: Within the body of a just and duly constituted Lodge of Master Masons, assembled in a place representing the unfinished Sanctum Sanctorium of KST, furnished with the Holy Bible, Square & Compasses, together with a Charter or Dispensation from some Grand Body of competent jurisdiction empowering it to work

WM: How many composed a Master Mason Lodge?

SW: Three or more

WM: When composed of five, of whom does it consist?

SW: The WM, SW, JW, S & JD

WM: The JD place in the Lodge?

SW: At my right

WM: *(Gives two raps with this gavel, All officers rise.)* Bro JD

JD: WM

WM: Your Duty?

JD: To carry messages from the SW in the West to the JW in the south, and elsewhere about the Lodge as he may direct; attend to alarms at the outer door, report the same to the WM. Also to see that we are duly tyled

WM: The SD Place

JD: At the right of the WM in the East

WM: SD

SD: WM

WM: Your Duty?

SD: To carry orders from the WM in the East to the SW in the West, and elsewhere about the Lodge as he may direct; welcome and clothe visiting Brethren, attend to alarms at the inner door. Also to receive and conduct candidates.

WM: The JW's station?

SD: In the South

WM: Bro JW

JW: WM

WM: Your duty in the South?

JW: To observe the sun at meridian, which is the glory and beauty of the day, call the craft from labor to refreshment, superintend them during the hours thereof, careful to observe that the means of refreshment are not perverted to intemperance or excess, see that they return to their labor in due season; that the WM may receive honor and they pleasure and profit thereby.

WM: The SW Station?

JW: In the West?

WM: Bro SW

SW: WM

WM: Why in the West?

SW: As the sun is in the West at the close of the day, so stands the SW in the West to assist the WM in opening and closing the Lodge, pay the craft their wages, if any due, that none go away dissatisfied, harmony being the support of all institutions, especially this of ours.

WM: The Master station?

SW: In the East

WM: Why in the East?

SW: As the sun rises in the East to open and govern the day, so rises the WM in the East **(WM: Three raps, Lodge rises)** to open and govern the Lodge, set the craft at work, giving them proper instructions for their labor.

WM: Bro SW it is my order that _____ Lodge No. ___ be now closed on the third degree of Masonry and stand closed until it's next regular communication unless specially convened, in which due and timely notice will be given. This communicate to the JW in the South, and he to the brethren present, that having due notice thereof, they may govern themselves accordingly.

SW: Bro JW

JW: Bro SW

SW: It is the order of the WM that ____ Lodge No. ____ be now close on the third degree of Masonry and stand closed until it's next regular communication unless specially convened, in which due and timely notice will be given. This communicate to the brethren present, that having due notice thereof, they may govern themselves accordingly.

JW: Brethren, it is the order of the WM communicated to me through the SW in the West that ____ Lodge No. ____ be now closed on the third degree of Masonry and stand closed until it's next regular communication unless specially convened, in which due and timely notice will be given. I communicate the same to you that having due notice thereof, you may govern yourselves, accordingly, observe the East

(WM, SW and JW goes in front of their stations, all brothers form a square around the lodge in line with the WM, SW and JW)

WM: Brethren, attend to giving the signs: (The signs of the three degrees are given by all present, taking time from the WM, working from MM to EA)

WM: *(Three raps with his gavel)*

SW: *(Three raps)*

JW: *(Three raps)*

WM: Deacons, escort and arch the Chaplain for the purpose of prayer.

WM: Brethren, give your attention to the chaplain

CLOSING PRAYER

Chp: Almighty Father, we ask Thy blessing upon the proceedings of this communication, and as we are about to separate, we ask Thee to keep us under Thy protecting care until again we are called together. Teach us, O God to realize the beauty of the principles of our time-honored institution, not only while in the

Lodge, but when abroad in the world. Subdue every discordant passion within us and enable us to love one another in the bonds of unity and friendship. Amen

Chap: Amen

All: So mote it be

Chp: Amen

All: So mote it be

Chp: Amen

All: So mote it be

WM: Bro SW

SW: WM

WM: How should Masons meet?

SW: On the level

WM: Bro JW

JW: WM

WM: How should Mason act?

JW: By the Plumb

WM: And part upon Square. So let us forever meet, act, and part.

WM: **Closing Charge**

Brother: We are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mingle again with the outer world. Amid its concerns and employments, forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated, and so forcefully recommended,

in this lodge. Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. Remember that at this Altar you have promised to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need your assistance. You have been enjoined to remind a brother in the friendliest manner of his fault, to endeavor to aid his reformation, and defend his character. These generous principles extend further, for every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good onto all. Finally, my Brothorn, be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with you and bless you.

WM: May the blessings of heaven rest upon us and all Master Masons. May brotherly love prevails, and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen

All: So mote it be

WM: Amen

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WM: Amen

All: So mote it be

WM: Bro SD

SD: WM

WM: Attend at the altar and close the Great Lights in Masonry

SD: *(Goes to the altar and closed the Holy Bible, proceeds to the west corner of the altar and extinguished the Light of Strength; proceeds south of the altar and extinguishes the Light of Beauty; proceeds to the east corner of the altar and extinguishes the Light of Wisdom; proceeds west of the altar and raps three times with rod.)* WM

WM: Bro SD

SD: The altar is disarranged

WM: I now declare ____ Lodge No. __ closed. JD inform the Tyler

JD: Goes to door and opens it without knocking and states; The Lodge is closed. He

leaves door open and reports to the WM) WM, the Tyler is informed.

WM: Go in peace brothers (*Gives one rap with his gavel*)

CLOSING - SHORT FORM

WM: (*Raps once with gavel*) Bro JD

JD: (*Rises*) WM

WM: The last as well as first great care of Masons when convened?

JD: To see that they are duly tyled

WM: Attend to that duty and inform the Tyler that I am about to close ____ Lodge No. ____, on the third degree of Masonry; direct him to take due notice thereof and govern himself accordingly

JD: (*Gives three knocks on the outer door, which are answered by three from the Tyler, one additional knock is given by the JD and one from the Tyler and the door is opened.*) Bro Tyler

Tyl: Bro JD

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WM: *(Gives two raps with this gavel, All officers rise.)* Bro JD

JD: WM

WM: The SD Place

JD: At the right of the WM in the East

WM: SD

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JW: Brethren, it is the order of the WM communicated to me through the SW in the West that _____ Lodge No. ____ be now closed on the third degree of Masonry and stand closed until it's next regular communication unless especially convened, in which due and timely notice will be given. I communicate the same to you that having due notice thereof, you may govern yourselves, accordingly, observe the East

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WM: And part upon Square, So should we, my Brethren, ever meet, act and part.

WM: *(Deacons, escort and arch the Chaplain for the purpose of prayer.)*

WM: Brethren, give your attention to the chaplain

CLOSING PRAYER

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WM: Go in peace Brothers (*Gives one rap with his gavel*)