

MASONIC CEREMONIES

BY STAUNTON LODGE NO. 13,

—ON—

Laying the Corner Stone

—OF—

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
OF STAUNTON, VA.,

Tuesday, October 2nd, 1888,

G. M.—Before entering upon any important undertaking, we should always invoke the blessing of Deity.

PRAYER BY CHAPLIN.

G. M.—Brother S. W., It is my order that the corner stone of this church now to be erected, be now laid with Masonic Honors, this you will communicate to the J. W., that the brethren may have due notice thereof.

S. W.—Brother J. W., It is the order of the most W. G. M., that the corner stone of this church be now laid with Masonic Honors, this you will proclaim to all present, that the occasion may be observed with due order and solemnity.

J. W.—Brethren, you will strictly observe due order and decorum during the ceremonies in which we are about to engage.

HYMN.

To Heaven's high Architect all praise,
All gratitude be given,
Who deigned the human soul to raise
By Secrets sprung from Heaven.

CHORUS :

Then sound the Great JEHOVAH's praise,
To Him the structure raise.

Now swells the Choir in solem tone,
And hovering Angels join ;
Religion looks delighted down
When votaries press the shrine.—*Cho.*

Blest be the place! thither repair,
The true and pious train :
Devotion wakes her anthem there,
And Heaven accepts the strain.—*Cho.*

G. M.—Brother Treasurer will you read a list of the contents to be deposited in the box. (Reads.)

G. M.—Brothers Treasurer and Secretary will superintend and see that the box is deposited in the place prepared for its reception.

G. M.—Brother D. G. M., S. W. and J. W., will you accompany me and see if the stone is properly and duly laid. (*They perform that duty.*)

G. M.—Brother D. G. M., What Jewel do you wear ?

D. G. M.—The Square.

G. M.—Have you applied it to such parts of the stone as should be square ?

D. G. M.—I have Most Wor. G. M., and find the craftsmen have fully performed their duty.

G. M.—Brother S. W., what Jewel do you wear ?

S. W.—The Level.

G. M.—Have you applied it to such parts of the stone as should be level ?

S. W.—I have Most Wor. G. M., and find the craftsmen have faithfully performed their duty.

G. M.—Brother J. W., What Jewell do you wear ?

J. W.—The Plumb.

G. M.—Have you applied it to such parts of the stone as should be plumb ?

J. W.—I have Most Wor. G. M., and find the craftsmen have faithfully performed their duty.

G. M.—We have examined the foundation stone of this building and find it true, trusty and duly laid.

INVOCATION :

May this undertaking be prosecuted by the workmen to completion, according to the plans of its architect, in Peace, Love and Harmony,

G. M.—Brother J. W., Will you approach and pour upon the stone the corn of nourishment ?

The J. W. performs that duty saying: May the Supreme Architect of the Universe preserve the health and strength of the workmen engaged in the erection of this building; protect them from all accidents and bless and prosper the work of their hands.

HYMN.

Let Masonry from pole to pole
Her sacred Laws expand,
Far as the mighty waters roll,
To wash remotest land;
That Virtue has not left mankind,
Her social maxims prove,
For stamp'd upon the Mason's mind,
IS UNITY AND LOVE.

G. M.—Brother S. W., Will you approach and pour upon the stone the wine of Refreshment ?

The S. W. performs that duty saying: May abundant refreshment be showered down upon the congregation of this church and may the Giver of all good attend this undertaking.

HYMN.

Ascending to her native sky,
Let Masonry increase;
A glorious Pillar raised on high,
INTEGRITY its base.
Peace adds to Olive boughs entwined,
AN EMBLEMATIC DOVE,
As stamp'd upon the Mason's mind,
IS UNITY AND LOVE.

G. M.—Brother D. G. M. Will you approach and pour upon the stone the Oil of Joy and Gladness ?

Dep. G. M. performs that duty saying: May the Supreme Being preserve to the people of this congregation Peace and Harmony and vouchsafe to them Joy and Gladness and every blessing.

MUSIC BY THE STONEWALL BRIGADE BAND.

Grand Master accompanied by the S. and Junior Deacons approaches the stone, strikes it three times with mallet, returns to his station saying :

May the all bounteous Author of Nature, bless this congregation with all the necessaries, conveniences and comforts of life. Assist in the erection and completion of this church, protect the workmen against every accident, and long preserve this structure from decay, and grant to us all a supply of the Corn of Nurishment, the Wine of Refreshment and the Oil of Joy and Gladness.

Response by the Brethren three times : So mote it be ! Amen.

G. M.—Brother Marshall present the Superintendent and the working tools.

G. M.—(To the Superintendent.) Mr. ——— as the Saperintendent of the erection of this Church I now confide to your hands the implements of Operative Masonry with the fullest confidence in your skill and ability to erect such a structure and will reflect credit upon its architect, gratification and commendable pride to its congregation and be an ornament to the City in which we live.

GRAND HONORS.

Benediction.

HERSONIC CERAMONIS
BY THE

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