

Open Ceremonies Guide

✦ a Lambda Chi Alpha resource



The Open Ceremonies of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

The ceremonies and customary material contained in this booklet are exoteric and thus may be shared with nonmembers.

Indeed, a strong chapter will use the Associate Member Ceremony and High Zeta Commissioning Ceremony as opportunities to place the purposes and ideals of the Fraternity before individuals such as parents, college or university officials, and prospective members. The positive public relations value of inviting nonmembers to our open rituals cannot be overestimated; and we should never forgo an opportunity to recruit new members.

In circumstances where a nonmember is present at a chapter business meeting. It is quite appropriate to share the text of the Ritual for conducting Business Meetings with any interested individual.

The custom of saying grace before a meal where members are gathered is strongly encouraged as a means of keeping our shared ideals constantly before our eyes.

A memorial to a deceased brother may take many forms. Lambda Chi Alpha does not have a prescribed burial ritual or memorial service. Rather, this section contains possibilities that can be adapted to the particular circumstances.

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Associate Member Ceremony

This is an open ceremony to which parents and families of associate members, local alumni, college or university officials, friends of members, and recruitment prospects may be invited.

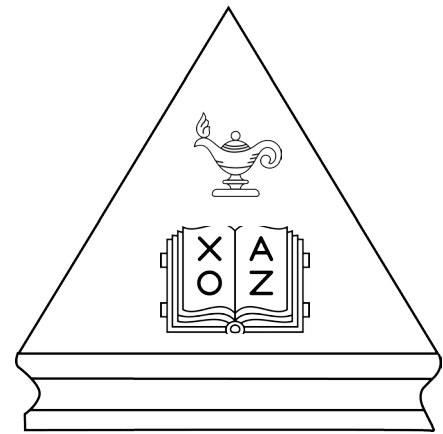
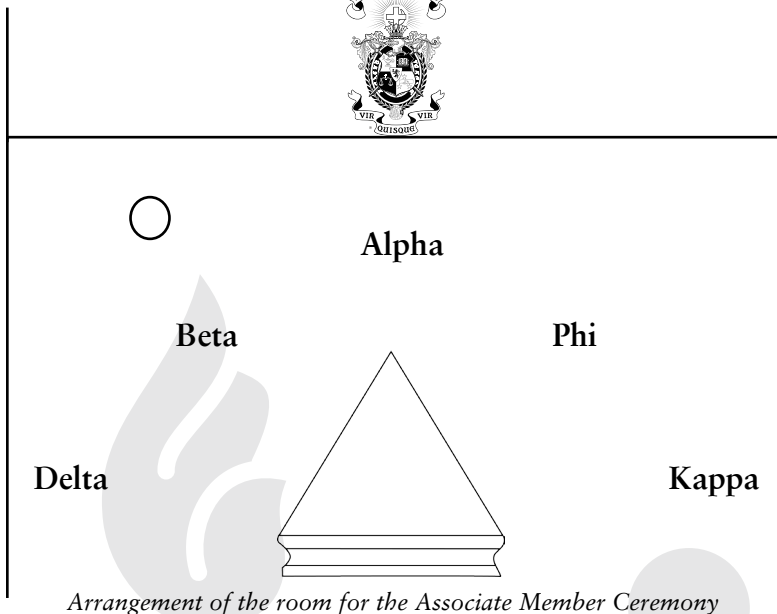
This ceremony is a condensation of the pledge degree and three initiation degrees of the Theta Kappa Nu Fraternity. At the Union in 1939, this means was selected as the primary device for preserving the ritual heritage of Theta Kappa Nu in the combined brotherhood.

The officers (and all members present, initiated and associate) should be attired in coat and tie. Although the five officers named ordinarily perform the ceremony, substitutes may be used.

The Associate Member Ceremony **must** be completely memorized (with the exception of the Obligations which shall be read), including all movements. Therefore, sufficient rehearsals must be conducted to assure that the ceremony proceeds smoothly.

- **NOTE:** The Obligations should be reviewed with the Associate Members prior to the beginning of the Associate Member Ceremony, so when High Kappa reads them to the Associate Members during the Ceremony, the Associate Members have already being advised of the Obligations and been able to ask questions for clarification.
- **NOTE:** The High Kappa and/or the High Phi need to conduct a debrief with all of the new Associate Members within 7 days of the Associate Member ceremony. The entire ceremony, including the Obligations and the Oath, need to be reviewed and fully discussed with the new Associate Members.

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The altar arrangement for the Associate Member Ceremony

Equipment:

- Altar and plain white altar cloth
- Coat of arms painting on wall
- Flag of the country or countries of the candidates
- Greek lamp and lamp oil
- The Bible
- List of the full names of the candidates
- An associate member pin for each candidate
- A fire extinguisher
- Officer collars

Flag Display: If hung on the wall behind the High Beta, the Canadian flag may be horizontal with the maple leaf stem at the bottom or vertical with the stem to the left. If hung on the wall behind the High Beta, the U.S. flag may be either horizontal or vertical with the stars in the upper left corner as you face the flag. If more than one country's flag is hung on the wall, the flag of the country you are in should be the farthest to the left as you face the wall. The flag(s) can also be on a flagpole set in a stand behind the High Beta (close to where it would be hung on the wall). If you are flying the flags of two or more countries, each must be on a separate pole with all at the same height. The flag of the country you are in should be the farthest to the left as you sit in the audience.

Flags should be either on the wall or flown, not both.

Associate Member Ceremony

Opening

The Associate Members are told to await instructions at the entrance to the room in which they are to be inducted.

They should be positioned where they can hear the opening portions of the ceremony. If no sound penetrates, leave the door slightly ajar during this period.

[The High Phi lights the Greek lamp and opens the Bible to Psalm 133.]

[The five High Zeta officers, wearing collars, take their places in a semicircle behind the altar as follows, left to right as viewed from the audience: Delta, Beta, Alpha, Phi, Kappa.]

High Alpha Brothers, there await our pleasure [states the number] candidate(s) whom we have invited to become members of Lambda Chi Alpha, and who have pledged their acceptance of our standards and ideals. They are [gives full names of each].

If there are no objections we shall proceed with their instruction.

[pauses about 5 seconds]

Brother High Kappa, you will retire, ask the questions, and present for instruction all who answer satisfactorily.

[The High Kappa retires, closes the door and addresses the associate members and reads the Obligations.]

Associate Member Obligations

High Kappa Associate Members, are you convinced of the value and desirability of membership in the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity?

If so you will each answer "I do".

Of your own free will, do you offer yourself as a candidate for initiation in due form into the Fraternity, and upon your honor, do you swear to the following Associate Member Obligations:

THE OPEN CEREMONIES OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

Of your own free will, do you offer yourself as a candidate for initiation in due form into the Fraternity, and upon your honor, do you swear to the following Associate Member Obligations:

You are not a member of, and hereby agree not to affiliate with, any other international or national general fraternity at any institution or any local fraternity at this institution.

If so you will each answer “I do”.

You are confident you will have the time and means to meet all of the Fraternity obligations as defined in the Constitution and Statutory Code and chapter by-laws.

If so you will each answer “I do”.

You acknowledge that you are responsible to read, to know and to follow the Laws of Lambda Chi Alpha, which include the Constitution and the Statutory Code, Mandatory Policy Resolutions approved by the General Assembly, rulings of the Grand High Zeta, Chapter (or Colony) bylaws, decisions of the High Zeta and rulings of the Executive Committee.

If so you will each answer “I do”.

You will abide by all federal, state and local laws, and all campus policies.

If so you will each answer “I do”.

You regard the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity in a spirit of sincerity and respect, with a desire to give its teachings your earnest consideration.

If so you will each answer “I do”.

Realizing that you are not required to be a Christian or a member of any religion, you understand that the Lambda Chi Alpha ritual is based, in part, upon the moral and ethical teachings of the Holy Bible, and you accept membership without reservation.

If so you will each answer “I do”.

[The High Kappa then directs the associate members to form in single file facing the door.]

Induction

[The High Kappa knocks on the door four times.]

[The High Phi moves to the door and opens it slightly.]

High Kappa The candidates subscribe to the Obligations of Lambda Chi Alpha and now seek instruction.

[The High Phi closes the door slightly, but still open so the Associate Members can still hear the proceedings, and moves to a position near the base of the altar.]

High Phi Brother High Alpha, Brother High Kappa returns with the candidates who are prepared to receive our instruction.

High Alpha Let them enter.

[The High Phi returns to the door and opens it] Enter.

[The High Kappa enters the room followed by the candidates in single file. He indicates to them where to stand so that they form an arc facing the altar.]

[After the last candidate has entered the High Phi closes the door and follows the procession to his station.]

[The High Kappa returns to his station.]

High Kappa Brother High Alpha, I present candidates for instruction in the duties and obligations of Associate Members of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Summary of Ideals

High Alpha Worthy candidates, the objectives of Lambda Chi Alpha are the establishment of a brotherhood for the cultivation of good will among men; the fostering of the highest ideals of patriotism; the acquirement of sound learning; and the observance of the laws of God.

We hold that it is the duty of every man to make of himself a man, and that he can do so through his own effort, with the help of God and his fellow man. We take as a guide the Holy Bible and as an exemplar, Jesus of Nazareth.

[The High Alpha steps forward to the altar, still facing the associate members.]

Associate Member Oath

High Alpha If you seek to join us in an effort to attain these objectives, you will place your right hand over your left breast, and take the Oath of an Aspirant.

[The candidates do as directed.]

Each of you will repeat after me:

High Alpha Of my own free will, / I, [state your full name], / do promise and swear, / before God / and before the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha, / that I will / for the rest of my life / abide by these solemn pledges: /

I will never divulge / any of the secrets of Lambda Chi Alpha / which I shall learn now or hereafter / to any person / who is not a member of the Fraternity. / I accept the obligations / with which I was charged / before I entered the chapter room / without reservation or evasion.

I will conduct myself / at all times as a gentleman, / and show courtesy to all. / I promise / to receive every member / of this chapter (or colony) / as a brother or an associate member, / without reservation or evasion. / I will only wear and display / the letters and emblems / of Lambda Chi Alpha / in a manner / that will reflect positively on the Fraternity. / I will support the interests of the Fraternity. / I will work with diligence / to maintain my scholarship, / to be active in college affairs / and other worthy pursuits.

I will strive with the help of God / to be true to the ideals and objectives of Lambda Chi Alpha. /

To which I pledge my oath and faith, / in accordance with / the Christian teachings of this Ritual / and as a gentleman. / For the least violation / I invoke upon myself / expulsion, / suspension, / or other lawful penalty. /

So help me God!

Declaration of Acceptance

High Alpha We accept you as Aspirants and assure you that we will always be ready and willing to help you.

[The High Alpha resumes his station.]

High Alpha Brother High Delta, you will instruct the Aspirants regarding their first obligation as Associate Members of Lambda Chi Alpha.

[The High Delta takes a position beside the altar.]

Quest

High Delta Worthy Aspirants, you have set out upon a journey in which I trust you will be successful. Let me assure you that we stand ready to assist you in your undertaking. Do not rely alone upon your own strength. Instead, seek the advice and support of your friends; or better, go to Almighty God, the source of all strength.

From time immemorial man has sought to impress many lessons by means of symbols. This we now do.

[The High Delta pauses, then points to the clasped hands on the coat of arms.]

Fraternity

High Delta The clasped hands are the symbol of Fraternity. May they ever remind you of your obligation and responsibilities as a brother. Within our Fraternity, as elsewhere throughout the world, there is many a man who is handicapped in his hard fight for success, but who - with brotherly encouragement and help, may reach his goal. We must be ever mindful of our duty to assist others, particularly our brothers.

Proof of your sincerity of purpose has already been demonstrated by your earnest desire for admittance to our brotherhood, and by your acceptance of the obligations of friendship.

[The High Delta resumes his station.]

High Alpha Brother High Beta, you will give instruction relative to the ideal of patriotism.

[The High Beta takes a position beside the altar.]

Patriotism

High Beta Worthy Aspirants, [he points to flag], this is a symbol of the freedom, justice and democracy which our land offers. Believing these to be ideals which offer man the best opportunity to attain his true dignity, we support them. This is by no means a blind allegiance, but is tempered by a keen sense of moral obligation.

As a true patriot, you will be expected to support these ideals and to work to make this land a better place in which to live. A true patriot is tolerant of others; he assists his fellow man in his efforts to live a productive, meaningful and happy life; he is careful to guard his own rights and the rights of others.

[The High Beta resumes his station.]

High Alpha Brother High Phi, you will instruct the Aspirants as to the requirements of sound learning.

[The High Phi takes a position beside the altar.]

Learning

High Phi Worthy Aspirants [he points to lamp], the Greek lamp is the symbol of learning. By it we are reminded that we should ever strive to attain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom for the good of our fellow men. It is this unselfish end which we, as members of Lambda Chi Alpha, should ever have in mind as we fit ourselves for service in the world which lies beyond our college walls. In due time, as you go forth from this institution, prove that you are indeed a man among men by the way you make use of the educational advantages which have been bestowed upon you. Remember that this seat of learning was established here by society for your use, and that in return you owe much to society for the benefits you have enjoyed.

[The High Phi resumes his station.]

High Alpha Brother High Kappa, you will give instruction relative to the observance of the laws of God.

[The High Kappa takes a position beside the altar.]

Religion, Morality

High Kappa Let me remind you that this is a solemn occasion. The Latin motto beneath our coat of arms is “Vir Quisque Vir.” [Weer Kwis’-kway Weer]

[He points to lower streamer of the coat of arms.]

Translated, it means, “Every Man a Man.” Unless each of you determines to make of himself a man, there is no place for you within Lambda Chi Alpha. To be a true brother, a genuine patriot, and one who employs his learning for the good of society, one must first of all be a man. Within yourselves you have the possibility.

The brothers of this Fraternity may help you to attain your goal; but the source of the greatest strength is the One about whom this Book speaks.

[he points to Bible]

I admonish you to govern your lives by the teachings which it sets forth.

[pause]

Worthy Aspirants, as Associate Members of this chapter [colony] you will pass through many new experiences, just as all brothers have done before you. You will be asked to do nothing which a true man cannot do or should not do. We have invited you to become Associate Members because we are confident that we, as well as you, will profit by our close association.

[The High Kappa resumes his station.]

[The High Alpha steps to the altar.]

Explanation of Symbols

High Alpha As a token of your acceptance of our pledge and of our desire to be of assistance to you, whom we hope to know as brothers, you are being invested with a pin which is the emblem of Associate Membership in Lambda Chi Alpha. It consists of four equilateral triangles, standing for fraternity, patriotism, learning and morality, and upon them has been imposed a monogram of the letters Lambda, Chi, and Alpha, the significance of which will be explained to you at a later time. The Associate Member pin is worn over the heart. It is only to be worn on a collared shirt.

Reception

High Alpha As a further token of our good will, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship and welcome you as Aspirants among us.

[The High Alpha steps forward, presents the Associate Member pin and shakes hands with each Associate Member, followed by the other officers, chapter members and old Associate Members.]

Ceremony for Conducting Business Meetings

Policy

This ceremony should be used at all business meetings of each chapter and colony and of the general fraternity. Both initiated and associate members should be present. Guests may also be present, if appropriate to the meeting. This ceremony is not used with the Associate Member Ceremony, the Initiation Ritual, the Commissioning of High Zeta members when conducted as a separate ceremony, or a Memorial to a Member.

The High Alpha, High Beta, and High Phi must memorize the appropriate parts. Each initiated member must memorize the creed.

At meetings of the general fraternity a roll call of the chapters and colonies is substituted for the member roll call.

Neat, casual dress is appropriate for most settings, with more formal attire for special occasions.

Equipment

Altar or deltoid table covered with a plain white tablecloth
Greek lamp and lamp oil
Bible
Fire extinguisher

Optional equipment, depending on the tone desired, includes collars and pendants for each officer with a Greek-letter title coat of arms painting on wall flag of the country in which the chapter is located fraternity flag

Prior to the opening ceremony the High Phi should place the Greek lamp and closed Bible on the altar.

Opening Ceremony

High Alpha [*]

Brother High Gamma, you will make sure that all associate and initiated members are in their places.

High Gamma *[calls roll, including names of any visiting brothers or alumni who may be present. The proper response of a member is either "present" or his Zeta and initiation number.]*

High Alpha Brother High Beta, you will proceed with the invocation. Will everyone please rise.

All *[rise]*

High Beta *[the following or similarly appropriate invocation may be used.]*

Great and merciful God, our Heavenly Father, in reverent spirit we approach Thee to invoke Thy blessings on this assembly.

Forgive our transgressions, and cleanse our hearts of all unrighteousness. Grant Thy wisdom to our leaders, and guide us in all our deliberations and transactions that the true spirit of brotherhood may be manifest in our every thought, word and deed.

Bless the brothers of our Bond wherever they may be, and deepen our love for each other, and quicken our sense of duty to Thee.

To Thee, our Lord and God, be all honor, praise and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

High Alpha Brother High Phi, you will prepare the altar of Lambda Chi Alpha.

High Phi *[opens the Bible to Psalm 133 and lights the Greek lamp.]*

High Alpha Members of Lambda Chi Alpha, we are now gathered together for our mutual welfare, to conduct the business of our Zeta, and to further the advancement of our fraternity.

We now unite in repeating once more the Creed of Lambda Chi Alpha.

CREED

All We believe in Lambda Chi Alpha, and its traditions, principles and ideals. The crescent is our symbol; pure, high, ever growing, and the cross is our guide; denoting service, sacrifice, and even suffering and humiliation before the world, bravely endured if need be, in following that ideal.

May we have faith in Lambda Chi Alpha and passion for its welfare. May we have hope for the future of Lambda Chi Alpha and strength to fight for its teachings. May we have pure hearts that we may approach the ideal of perfect brotherly love.

High Beta We have come together through Delta Pi.

High Phi We stand together in Zeta Alpha Chi.

High Beta We strive together for attainment in the light of the three flames of the delta.

High Alpha [*]

You may be seated.

All [resume seats]

Closing Ceremony

[when the motion to adjourn carries]

High Alpha [* * *]

Please rise.

All [rise]

High Alpha Brother High Phi, you will prepare the altar of Lambda Chi Alpha for adjournment.

High Phi *[extinguishes the Greek lamp and closes the Bible.]*

High Beta May we cultivate the precepts of Lambda Chi Alpha. May we confess our faults, and sincerely try to mend our ways.

High Phi As we go forth may it be in the spirit of Brotherhood. Lambda Chi Alpha has a mission to perform second to none. It is ours to teach by example and precept.

High Alpha May we increase in the knowledge of Lambda, its teachings, applications and possibilities.

High Alpha [*]

and the meeting is closed.

High Zeta Commissioning Ceremony

The High Zeta Commissioning Ceremony was established in 2016 to replace the Officer Installation Ceremony. It should be conducted within two weeks of the election of new officers to a chapter or colony's High Zeta.

The High Zeta Commissioning Ceremony is not expected to be memorized. A podium should be used to draw less attention to loose script papers.

All officers, incoming and outgoing, and audience members should be encouraged to wear suit and tie or similar formal attire

Equipment

Delta table

The Bible (opened to Ecclesiastes 4:12) placed upon the delta table

One sword on the bible with its point at the table's apex

Coat of Arms

High Pi wears Green collar with Scroll pendant

Outgoing High Zeta officers wear officer collars:

A - Gold collar with Gavel pendant

B - Green collar with Fasces pendant

Θ - Green collar with Bridge pendant

Γ - Green collar with Quill pendant

T - Purple collar with Key pendant

I - Purple collar with Crossed Swords pendant

P - Gold collar with Heart pendant

K - Purple collar with Cross pendant

Δ - Black collar with Emblem of Associate Membership pendant

Φ - Purple collar with Sword pendant

Σ - Green collar with Anchor pendant

E - Purple collar with Torch pendant

Advisory: Be aware that the High Alpha will be wielding a sword during the commissioning section of the Ceremony. Swords by design are sharp. Please use extreme caution, as the action of dubbing involves moving the sword near members' heads and faces.

Special considerations: It is typical for High Zeta Officers to be re-elected. Such cases will present scenarios that necessitate variations during the ceremony. Following are typical variations:

Outgoing officer not present: When the outgoing officers line up, leave a space in the place the absent officer would occupy. The High Pi will take then take his place in turn, performing the investiture in place of the absent outgoing officer.

Incoming officer not present: After coming forward to be recognized among the outgoing officers, any outgoing officer whose successor is not present when summoned will present his collar to the High Pi and be seated.

Officer reelected to same position: The officer will take his place in line with the outgoing officers when called forward. When the incoming officers are summoned, he will remain in line with the outgoing officers. He will omit the investiture and step forward into the line of the incoming officers once it is his turn to be dubbed. If the High Alpha is re-elected, the High Pi will fill the role of the outgoing High Alpha.

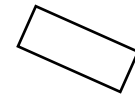
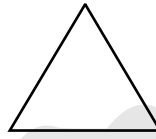
Outgoing officer elected to new position of higher rank: The officer will come forward when the outgoing officers are called up and assume his place in their line. When the incoming officers are summoned, he will then move to his place in the line of incoming officers. After he is dubbed for the new position, he will return down the line to the place of his outgoing office to await the investiture of his successor, after which he will return to the place of his new position. This means that at times, he will be wearing two collars. Exception – If he is the incoming High Alpha or High Beta, he will remain in the new position and the High Pi will fill the role of the outgoing officer.

Outgoing officer elected to a new position of lower rank: The officer will come forward when the outgoing officers are called up and assume his place in their line, where he will remain when the new officers are summoned. After he completes the investiture for his successor, he will assume his place in the line of incoming officers.

High Pi not present: The High Pi will designate another alumni brother to fulfill his ceremonial responsibilities in his absence.

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Outgoing: A B Θ Γ T I P K Δ Φ Σ E
Incoming: A B Θ Γ T I P K Δ Φ Σ E



Coat of Arms

[Note: Instead of "Brother _____," Associate Members should be addressed as "Associate Member _____."]

The ceremony begins with the High Pi at a podium, with the altar in front. When non-member guests are present, the High Pi should give some opening remarks to welcome them and give a brief explanation of the structure and meaning of the High Zeta.

Welcome and Purpose

High Pi: The Officers of the High Zeta of _____ Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, having been duly elected as provided for in the Constitution of the Fraternity, we are now gathered here for the purpose of Commissioning them for leadership and service. The exalted stations to which these men have been raised by the Chapter's will and choice involve great responsibilities. The manner in which they carry out the duties entrusted to them will determine whether this Chapter will grow and flourish or wither away.

We must consider also that the conduct of these men will reflect upon our international fraternity. Whatever honorable acts we may do that return credit to us, increases the reputation of Lambda Chi Alpha, but just as surely and, alas, much more quickly, do our dishonorable acts bring shame not to us alone, but to the name of Lambda Chi Alpha. The Officers are taking upon themselves a noble duty, but we cannot expect them to shoulder it alone. We must at all times remember that it is the duty of each and every Brother and Associate Member to encourage them, to assist them, and to show our confidence and faith in them.

I would now like to invite the members of the outgoing High Zeta to please come forward.

High Zeta members come up and stand facing the audience in a row beside the podium. They position themselves in ranking order, with the High Alpha nearest the podium. Refer to props section for ranking order.

On behalf of the men of _____ Zeta, I would like to thank you for your outstanding service to the Fraternity. It is not an easy task to lead a fraternity but you all embraced the challenge. For this, we are grateful. As you move away from

your role, be mindful that you should continue to aid this chapter to the best of your abilities.

Addressing the audience: Join me in thanking these leaders for their service [applause]

At this time, will all the newly elected officers come forward?

The newly elected officers should stand in front of their outgoing counterpart facing the audience.

Commissioning of the High Alpha

The outgoing High Alpha steps forward to the side of the incoming High Alpha, between him and the podium, so that the incoming High Alpha is visible to the audience. Note: If the High Alpha has been reelected to the office, see instructions under "Special Considerations."

Outgoing High Alpha:

Brother _____, our members have duly chosen you to be their High Alpha. Accordingly, you assume your place in a line of High Alphas extending back to the founding of this Zeta, and all High Alphas in the history Lambda Chi Alpha. You are the heir to their faithful legacies of striving, accomplishment, sacrifice, and servant leadership.

High Pi:

Brother High Alpha, the interests, well-being, and development of this Zeta, and the guidance of each Member, are now entrusted to a large degree in your hands. May you strive ardently for the chapter's welfare, but let your efforts be wisely directed.

May you demand strict adherence to our laws and standards, but look well that there is no fault to be found in your actions. May you heed the sincere counsel of all, but not be swayed by undue influence. May you be deliberate in judgment, but prompt in execution. May you conduct yourself with dignity, but not be overbearing. By your words and actions, may you set an example before our members, our campus, and our community worthy of the highest ideals and attainments of Lambda Chi Alpha.

The outgoing High Alpha removes his collar and places it around the neck of the incoming High Alpha.

Outgoing High Alpha:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the gavel, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Alpha retrieves the sword from the table, holding it pointed at the ceiling with both hands. He stands in front of the incoming High Alpha at about one meter distance. Then he carefully touches the flat side of the blade once on each of the incoming High Alpha's shoulders, saying...

Outgoing High Alpha:

As you take upon yourself the duties of the High Alpha, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

Commissioning of the other Officers

The outgoing High Alpha then hands the sword to the incoming High Alpha, who holds it pointed at the ceiling with both hands, and the outgoing High Alpha returns to his seat. Note: if any officers have been reelected, see instructions under "Special Considerations."

High Pi: The first duty of Brother _____ as High Alpha is to commission the other officers of his High Zeta.

High Pi: Brother _____, as High Beta, may you inspire our Members to mutual aid, affection, and ever-increasing usefulness to our chapter and our campus

The outgoing High Beta removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Beta.

Outgoing High Beta:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the fasces, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Beta returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Beta's shoulders. Doing so in the same manner that it was done to him.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Beta, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

Your first duty as High Beta is to assist in commissioning the other officers.

The High Beta shall now assume the High Pi's roll of giving a brief introduction to each officer at the podium.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Theta, may you strive with diligence to ensure that the

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light of this great fraternity shines brightly in our community and the world in which we live.

The outgoing High Theta removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Theta.

Outgoing High Theta:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the bridge, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Theta returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Theta's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Theta, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Gamma, may you constantly aim to maintain the history and records of the chapter to promote the future of the fraternity.

The outgoing High Gamma removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Gamma.

Outgoing High Gamma:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the quill, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Gamma returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Gamma's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Gamma, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Tau, may you ever act with prudence and wisdom in vigilance and stewardship with the resources of the chapter entrusted to you.

The outgoing High Tau removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Tau.

Outgoing High Tau:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the key, your symbol of office.

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The outgoing High Tau returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Tau's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Tau, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Iota, may your guiding hand ever ensure the safety and protection of this chapter, its members and guests.

The outgoing High Iota removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Iota.

Outgoing High Iota:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the crossed swords, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Iota returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Iota's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Iota, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Rho, may you keep kindled the flames of Lambda Chi Alpha in the hearts of our brothers throughout their whole lives.

The outgoing High Rho removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Rho.

Outgoing High Rho:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the heart, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Rho returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Rho's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Rho, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Kappa, may you be an example and guide to our

✚ THE OPEN CEREMONIES OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

members as they pass through many new experiences in their journeys of brotherhood.

The outgoing High Kappa removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Kappa.

Outgoing High Kappa:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the cross, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Kappa returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Kappa's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Kappa, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Delta, may you instill a passion in our members to bring into touch with our fraternity men who will ensure its future is bright.

The outgoing High Delta removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Delta.

Outgoing High Delta:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the Emblem of Associate Membership, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Delta returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Delta's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Delta, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Phi, may you guard well that our secrets and teachings are passed on and ever growing in the hearts of our members.

The outgoing High Phi removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Phi.

Outgoing High Phi:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the sword, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Phi returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Phi's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Phi, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Sigma, may you ensure that our members work diligently in their college studies to attain knowledge, understanding and wisdom for the good of society.

The outgoing High Sigma removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Sigma.

Outgoing High Sigma:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the anchor, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Sigma returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Sigma's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Sigma, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

High Beta: Brother _____, as High Epsilon, may you strive to exemplify our ideals to our society with genuine hospitality befitting our Order.

The outgoing High Epsilon removes his collar and begins to place it around the neck of the incoming High Epsilon.

Outgoing High Epsilon:

I now place about your neck this collar bearing upon it the torch, your symbol of office.

The outgoing High Epsilon returns to his seat.

As he says this line, the High Alpha carefully touches the blade once on each of the High Epsilon's shoulders.

High Alpha: As you take upon yourself the duties of High Epsilon, may you be endowed with physical strength and moral courage equal to your task.

The High Alpha returns the sword to the delta table. The High Alpha and High Beta return to their positions in line.

[Note: the following line is to be used by chapters whose Bylaws provide for additional elected High Zeta officers in accordance with Code 3-1a. of the Statutory Code]

High Pi: Zeta has further chosen the following members to serve as additional officers within the chapter. Stand as your names are called:

[List names and offices]

All incoming officers will remain standing.

Oath

High Pi: Gentlemen, you have each been invested with a collar and token bearing upon it your symbol of office. If you commit to wearing these as emblems of servant leadership and not as symbols of place and power, you will each raise your right hand and repeat after me the Obligation of your office:

In the presence of God/ and before the members of Lambda Chi Alpha / I, [state your full name],/ do solemnly promise and vow/ that I will strive/ to the best of my ability /to perform the duties of my office faithfully,/ honorably,/energetically,/ and impartially./ In so doing,/ I will seek every opportunity/ to grow as a leader,/ as a servant,/ as a brother,/ and as a man among men./ I will at all times/ strive to stimulate and maintain/ the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation/ among my fellow officers./ I will encourage all Brothers and Associate Members/ to grow in the ritualistic ideals/ and core values of Lambda Chi Alpha./ So help me God!

Proclamation and Charge

High Pi: Having taken the oath and made these promises, I hereby proclaim each of you to be fully commissioned High Zeta Officers of _____ Zeta. As you take your office, harken unto the words of the charge given to the knights of the ancient Order of the Crescent:

"Study to make yourselves worthy, so that your honor may be in the Crescent always from good to best, that all good deeds and acts of prowess which have been done or shall be done by the valor of your person shall be written and enregistered in the chronicles of our Order, for perpetual memory."

Likewise, may you take inspiration from the Inescutcheon of Chivalry blazoned on our Coat of Arms. [High Pi motions to the Coat of Arms]. The Lion Rampant may be found on many coats of arms, but it is the white rose that sets the Lion of Lambda Chi Alpha apart. This white rose is an emblem of honor, integrity and

THE OPEN CEREMONIES OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

uprightness. The Lion Rampant clutching the white rose means for us nobility attained through fighting for what is right, just and pure. Together, may the lion and the rose inspire you to pursue the highest aims of each of your posts with pure and courageous hearts, so that these ideals will grow and bloom in your life and the lives of those you serve.

High Alpha: Brothers and Associate Members, it is my honor to be joined by these men in this new journey upon which we are about to embark. Being on the High Zeta is not a position to be taken lightly, because you have all given faith in our ability and willingness to perform the difficult tasks that may befall us. Each of us brings forth gifts and talents that will prove vital in completing these tasks. Our greatest victories shall come from our shared labors, not from us as individuals acting alone. Scripture reminds us, "...if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." As the High Zeta, we should aspire to be one cord of many strands, so that we reinforce one another's strength in our quest for true success.

Brother High Beta, you will proceed with the prayer.

The High Alpha motions for audience to stand.

Prayer

High Beta: Almighty Father, from whom cometh all wisdom, we implore Thee to bless these men who stand in our midst.

Grant unto these, the strength and courage to lead by following in the light set forth in your teachings. Guide them in their journey, so that they may come to know the power of laboring with unity of purpose. We ask that you grant them this wisdom to faithfully perform the duties entrusted to them, to the everlasting honor and growth of Lambda Chi Alpha. Amen.

Audience remains standing.

Charge to Brothers and Associates

High Alpha: Fellow Members of _____ Zeta, you have chosen these men standing with me to lead you, to guide the affairs of this chapter on your behalf. You have heard the oaths and promises of a High Zeta officer. Do you promise to honor our decisions and rulings? If so, you will each answer, "I do."

Members: I do.

High Alpha: And by showing your confidence and faith in this High Zeta, do you promise to encourage, assist, and serve with us as Members of this Zeta? If so, you will each answer, "I do."

Members: I do.

Greeting

High Pi: Then all may come forward to greet the newly commissioned officers of our High Zeta. Congratulations.

High Zeta Commissioning Ceremony Task Force

Luke R. Dinkel, $\Gamma-\Xi$ 1445, Chairman

Quinn Anglada, $I-\Omega$ 881

Christopher Buck, $I-A$ 1739

David M. Huffine, $\Phi-\Theta$ 3

Carter Lee, $I-\Theta$ 1396

Committee on Emblems and Ritual

David M. Huffine, $\Phi-\Theta$ 3, Grand High Phi, Chairman

Christopher Buck, $I-A$ 1739

Lynn Chipperfield, $\Theta-\Sigma$ 795

Luke R. Dinkel, $\Gamma-\Xi$ 1445

Carter Lee, $I-\Theta$ 1396

Michael Saunders, $B-H$ 64

Jeffrey Steele, $A-\Psi$ 728

Tyler Tordsen, $A-\Gamma$ 1863

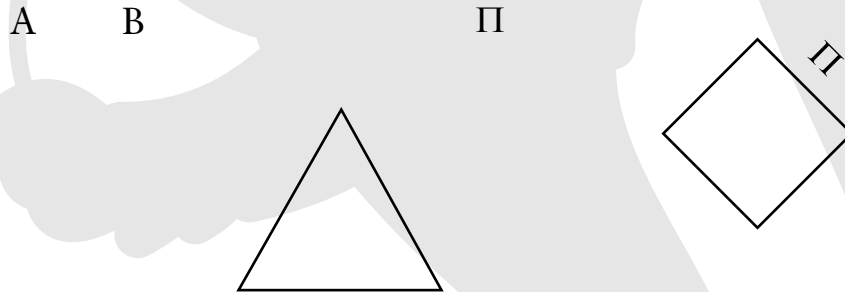
Joshua Womack, $\Sigma-E$ 502

High Pi Commissioning Ceremony

Equipment

- Delta table
- The Bible (opened to Titus 2:6-8) placed upon the delta table
- The Constitution and Statutory Code placed upon the delta table
- Outgoing High Pi wears Green collar with Scroll pendant
- Greek-letter chapter officers wear their appropriate collars

Special considerations: If the outgoing High Pi cannot be present, another respected Alumni Brother can take his place. If so, the collar will not be worn by him. Instead, it will remain with him at the podium until he invests the incoming High Pi.



The ceremony begins with the altar prepared up front. The outgoing High Pi standing at a podium to the right and the High Alpha and Beta standing to the left. The incoming High Pi and other Greek-letter chapter officers sitting towards the front in the audience.

Welcome and Purpose

Outgoing High Pi:

Upon the recommendation of our Executive Committee, the Grand High Pi has duly appointed Brother _____ as High Pi of _____ Zeta for the next two years. We are now gathered for the purpose of commissioning him for leadership and service.

I would now like to invite Brother _____ to come forward.

The incoming High Pi comes up facing the audience between the podium and the delta table.

Brother _____, yours is an office of great dignity, demanding wisdom and prudence. Be always impartial and deliberate in judgment. In your advisory capacity, be sure that you are familiar with all facets of a situation before acting, and then be candid yet diplomatic in giving your advice. Familiarity with the affairs of this chapter is essential in order that you may properly advise its members. It is important that you present a good example by your attendance at meetings and other activities, and by conscientiously following the highest standards of conduct and integrity. You will also be judged by the impartiality of your dealings with members of the chapter.

Commissioning of the High Pi

Outgoing High Pi:

Brothers, Associates, and friends of Lambda Chi Alpha, I have the honor and privilege of investing this good brother as High Pi, the Chancellor of this Chapter.

The outgoing High Pi moves to the side of the incoming High Pi, so that the incoming High Pi is still visible to the audience. The outgoing High Pi removes his collar and places it around the neck of the incoming High Pi.

I now invest you with this collar and pendant bearing upon it a scroll, representing our Initiation Ritual and the Laws of our Fraternity. We trust that you will always fulfill to good advantage the responsibilities which your emblem of office represents.

The outgoing High Pi returns to the podium.

Oath

Outgoing High Pi:

My Brother, you have been invested with a green collar and token bearing upon it your symbol of office. If you commit to wearing these as emblems of servant leadership and not as symbols of place and power, you will raise your right hand, and repeat after me the Obligation of a High Pi:

In of the presence of God/ and before the members of Lambda Chi Alpha/ I, [state your full name],/ do solemnly promise and vow/ that I will strive/ to the best of my ability, / to perform the duties of my office/ faithfully,/ honorably,/ energetically,/ and impartially./ I will interpret, enforce and abide by/ the laws of the fraternity./ I will at all times/ strive to stimulate and maintain/ the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation/ among my fellow officers./ I will encourage all Brothers and Associate Members/ to grow in the ritualistic ideals/ and core values of Lambda Chi Alpha./ So help me God.

Proclamation and Charge

Outgoing High Pi:

Brother _____, you have been entrusted with a great responsibility to ensure the preservation and growth of our Brotherhood. Consider well the significance of the Oath you have just taken, and at all times keep in mind the meanings and teachings of our Fraternity. There is no better guide in the fulfillment of your obligation than the Greek motto on our coat of arms, the ancient proverb, Chalepa ta kala [Kah-lay'-pah Tah Kal-lah'], "Naught without Labor."

I now proclaim Brother _____ to be duly commissioned as High Pi of _____ Zeta. May prudence and wisdom guide you. May the call to service and the ideals of Lambda Chi Alpha inspire you. May satisfaction in a task well done, and the manly joy of brotherly fellowship, reward you.

Being a mentor to our undergraduate members is a crucial role in the development of these gentlemen. Scripture speaks to us of that duty: "Encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say."

Brother High Beta, you will proceed with the prayer.

The outgoing High Pi motions for audience to stand.

Prayer

High Beta: Almighty Father, from whom cometh all wisdom, we implore thee to bless this man who stands in our midst.

Grant unto him the strength and courage to lead by following in the light of your teachings. Guide him in his journey, so that he may guide us in our journeys to the highest attainments of which we may be capable. We ask that you grant him the wisdom and sound judgment to faithfully perform the duties entrusted to him, to the everlasting honor and growth of Lambda Chi Alpha. Amen.

Audience remains standing. High Alpha moves to the side of the incoming High Pi.

Charge to Brothers and Associates

High Alpha: Fellow Members of _____ Zeta, as our new High Pi, Brother _____ has been entrusted with the guidance and safeguard of this Zeta. We must stand with him, as his is not a duty to bear alone. Do you promise to honor his decisions and rulings? If so, you will each answer, "I do."

Members: I do.

High Alpha: And do you promise to heed his wisdom and give his counsel your utmost respect? If so, you will each answer, "I do."

Members: I do.

Greeting

High Alpha: Then all may come forward to greet the newly Commissioned High Pi of our Zeta. Congratulations.

Graduating Senior Ceremony Open Version

Policy

This is an exoteric ceremony, open to members and non-members alike. This ceremony can be performed at the discretion of the individual chapter to best maximize its effect. All parts should be memorized. Attendees should be dressed in coat and tie.

Equipment

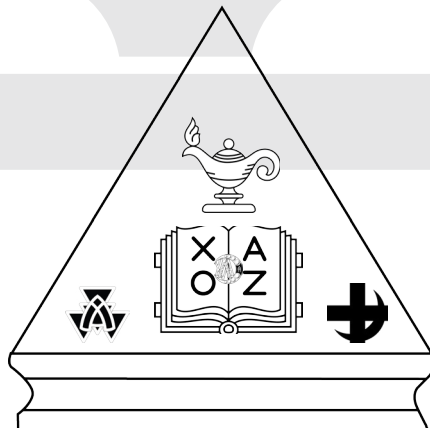
- Altar and cloth
- Greek lamp
- Bible (Open to Matthew 7: 24-27; The Parable of the Builder)
- Associate Member Pin
- Active Badge
- Cross and Crescent Pyramid (Other Cross and Crescent emblem may be substituted.)
- Officer Collars and Pendants for 7 Members of Performance Team
- 2 Cross and Crescent Collars with Pendants (One for Participating Brother; One for Participating Alumnus)
- Fire Extinguisher

Performance Team disposition

The Performance Team is dressed in coats and ties. The atmosphere is formal, but with a feeling of warmth and brotherly affection. The Performance Team members assume their prescribed positions around the altar. The Performance Team is positioned around the altar in the following manner beginning at the lower left corner of the altar: High Phi, High Gamma, High Beta, High Alpha (at the apex), High Kappa, High Tau, and High Epsilon. An alumnus participates in this ceremony. He should wear a coat and tie and one of the Cross and Crescent collars. He takes a position a few steps behind Epsilon.

Altar arrangement

The lighted Greek lamp is placed at the top of the altar. Immediately below the lamp is the open Bible with the Active Badge placed on top. To the left of the Bible is the Associate Member Pin. To the right of the Bible is the Cross and Crescent Pyramid.



OPENING

Graduating Brothers are gathered outside the performance room. The Participating Brother should already be selected.

Alpha Let us begin the graduation and alumni ceremony of Lambda Chi Alpha.

[Epsilon leaves the room and goes to the Graduating Brothers. He returns with the Graduating Brothers and positions them facing the Performance Team. The Participating Brother is placed at the base of the altar also facing the Performance Team. Epsilon, standing beside the Participating Brother, addresses the assembly.]

Epsilon Brother High Alpha, I bring with me Graduating Brothers of Zeta, who seek further knowledge in preparation for the challenges that await them beyond these halls. They are ...

[Epsilon reads names of Graduating Brothers.]

Alpha Brother High Beta, you will now proceed with the invocation.

[High Alpha motions attendees to rise.]

Beta Great and merciful God, we ask that you bless this assembly and all of our Brothers, wherever they may be. We ask a special blessing for these Graduating Brothers. As they take their leave, watch over them and guide them. Give them the strength and moral courage to face the challenges ahead, and imbue in them an ever-growing desire to serve and accomplish good works. Endow them with prudence, energy, and wisdom that they may lead exemplary lives for themselves, their fellow men, and for Lambda Chi Alpha. Amen.

[High Alpha motions attendees to be seated.]

Alpha Graduating Brothers, we regard you with great affection and respect. You come before us now as you did on the eve of your initiation into our great fraternity, seekers after enlightenment. Tonight, as you stand on the threshold of new beginnings, we pause to remember the lessons of the past and to pay tribute to your manifest contributions. Those contributions, and sacrifices, too, reveal a deep devotion to Lambda Chi Alpha and all that it stands for, while your dedication to the principles of the fraternity serve as an example to all who follow. In choosing to lead by example and precept, you have given credence to our open motto, Chalépa Tá Kalá, and shown yourselves to be, truly, men among men.

Kappa During your initiation, you learned of the importance of Delta Pi, and through knowledge of this symbol, you were allowed access to the deepest secrets and the supreme mysteries of Lambda Chi Alpha. The lessons, which you were privileged to learn from our rituals, have shaped and guided your development as undergraduate members of the fraternity. Now your graduation and your transition from undergraduates to alumni signal a departure from the nurturing environment of college into a brave, new world of opportunity and uncertainty. Into that world, you must carry the teachings of our fraternity, remembering always that your commitments and obligations to Lambda Chi Alpha remain constant.

Beta By pledging your fidelity to Lambda Chi Alpha and accepting the stringent requirements of our order, you became Brothers in Zeta Alpha Chi. As loyal Brothers, your commitment to the fraternity cannot end with graduation but, rather, must continue throughout your whole lives. Know also, the fraternity needs your continuing involvement to prosper and grow stronger. Lambda Chi Alpha is a precious gift bequeathed by those who have preceded us, and it is our duty to be faithful stewards of its welfare all of our lives. Alpha In furtherance of this idea, we ask you to take upon yourselves a final oath, which will guide you in your future endeavors. All repeat after me the obligations of this ceremony.

OATH OF OBLIGATION

Of my own free will/ I (state your full name)/ do promise and swear/ before God/ and before the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha/ that I will/ for the rest of my life/ abide by these solemn pledges.

I will always observe/ the commitments and obligations I have freely undertaken/ during the rituals of our Fraternity/ and I will work diligently toward the realization/ of a life built upon the principles and ideals/ of Lambda Chi Alpha.

I will be ever mindful/ of the Creed of Lambda Chi Alpha/ and will at all times/ try to foster the attributes of faith, hope, and love/ and cultivate the virtues of passion, strength, and purity./ These ideals/ like the three flames of the Delta/ shall burn eternally within my heart/ and within the hearts of all who remain faithful Brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha.

I will continue to be involved with Lambda Chi Alpha/ at the international and local levels/ be it in spirit/ with volunteer work/ or with other resources I possess/ so much as it may be possible/ without serious sacrifice to myself/ or to those dependent upon me./ Finally, I will strive always/ for the advancement of Lambda Chi Alpha/ that it may be forever a shining example/ to all of its undergraduate and alumni members.

To which I pledge my oath and faith/ in accordance with/ the Christian teachings of our rituals/ and as a gentleman. So help me God.

Alpha Brother High Gamma, please explain the significance of our altar.

Gamma Upon our altar are symbols that chart your course as an undergraduate member of Lambda Chi Alpha. In the lower left portion of the altar rests the Associate Member Pin; it signifies your status when you first arrived, undeveloped, but with enormous potential, needing only proper instruction and guidance. At the apex of the altar is the Greek lamp, the symbol of learning. It represents the academic education you have received at this institution. Below the lamp are the open Bible and the Active Badge. Together they symbolize the moral instructions of our rituals embodied in the knowledge of Lambda, its teachings, applications, and possibilities. In the lower right corner of the altar is the Cross and Crescent emblem. It symbolizes the realization of your full potential, through learning and adherence to high principles, as a Brother, and as a man.

PREAMBLE TO THE TEACHINGS

Kappa Taken together, our rituals form the moral and ethical foundation of our fraternity. They serve to define us and to teach, inspire, and direct us in leading virtuous and useful lives. In turn, they demand that we undertake specific promises and obligations to ourselves, our brothers, and to our fraternity. Observance of the lessons taught in our rituals prepares us to confront the vicissitudes of daily life and the vagaries of an ever-changing world. And while the world in which we must live is characterized by impermanence and uncertainty, the teachings of Lambda Chi Alpha remain timeless and immutable.

Alpha Lambda Chi Alpha teaches courage, that we shall not shrink in the face of danger, or subordinate duty to expediency.

Beta It teaches humility, that we shall not succumb to hubris.

Kappa It teaches dignity, that we shall not lose respect for ourselves, our families, or our training.

Gamma It teaches self-control, that we may set proper bounds upon our desires.

Tau It teaches us that we are ground into which a divine capacity for service has been implanted, and that it is our duty to cultivate that capacity for the good of mankind.

Phi It admonishes us that the art of living is not an easy one, and that rewards, if they have any value, come only to the deserving.

Epsilon It reminds us that no one is perfect, that error is inevitable, and that a mantle of charity should cover our condemnation of a brother's faults.

- Phi** It calls us to productive labor, that we may advance human happiness by our active participation in the work of the world.
- Epsilon** It shows us that life is brief, and our opportunities limited; that the sands of our existence slip by in a few moments of eternal time.
- Gamma** It unfolds to us the mystery of bodily death, which is transcended by a view of life in which death is but an incident.
- Tau** It opens to our view the pages of holy writ, and holds up the virtues therein contained for our practice.
- Beta** It reminds us that we are judged by our actions, and that misconduct cannot be concealed forever.
- Kappa** It displays life as perpetual change, in which worthy motives only are eternal.
- Alpha** And finally, it gives to us a light to be guarded in the secret places of the heart. To every brother comes this message: it is his duty to ponder upon it, to know it, and to carry it into his life.
- Brother High Gamma, pray, expound for us the meaning of these lessons.
- Gamma** Behold, everyone who embraces these lessons and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock. The rains came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock. But, everyone who ignores these lessons and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. And the rains came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; [pause] and it fell with a great crash.
- Alpha** Good Brothers, may you cherish the lessons you have learned in Lambda Chi Alpha and use them to build strong foundations for your future lives, knowing, that by doing so, you remain true Brothers of Zeta Alpha Chi.

INVESTITURE

[Performed by the Participating Alumnus. Alumnus wears one of the Cross and Crescent collars and carries the other. He moves from his position behind Epsilon to the apex of the altar, where he turns and faces the graduating brothers.]

- Alumnus** To denote your passage to alumnus status, I place about your neck a white collar trimmed in gold. Suspended from the collar is a pendant bearing the Cross and Crescent emblem. The white collar represents the purity of brotherly love, while

the gold trim symbolizes our steadfast loyalty to Lambda Chi Alpha. In the center of the pendant is the Cross and Crescent emblem, the symbol of this ceremony. It serves to remind us that high ideals are nothing more than hollow platitudes if not transformed into good works. For John Mason, the Cross and Crescent was one of our most important symbols, as evidenced by his placement of it at the very apex of our coat-of arms and directly beneath the open motto, Per Crucem Crescens. Let the Cross and Crescent symbol be a constant source of inspiration, leading you, in Mason's words, to "turn ideals into action."

[Alumnus walks to Participating Brother and places the collar about his neck. Alumnus steps back from Participating Brother, faces audience, and continues.]

Alumnus

As you venture forth, you must continue implementing the teachings of Lambda Chi Alpha in your daily lives.....in the hours, days, weeks, and years ahead.....in thought, in word, and in deed. Congratulations on your graduation and welcome to your new roles as alumni brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha.

[Alumnus shakes hand of Participating Brother then moves to stand beside him and face Performance Team.]

CONCLUSION

Alpha

The symbol of the Graduation and Alumni Ceremony is the Cross and Crescent. May it, and John Mason's challenge to "turn ideals into actions," always inspire you to ever greater accomplishments and serve as a constant reminder that Lambda Chi Alpha is a life-long commitment.

From all of your brothers, undergraduates and alumni, we extend to you the right hand of ever-lasting brotherhood and our sincere best wishes for the future. To those alumni present, we express our heartfelt thanks for your continuing involvement and support of Lambda Chi Alpha.

[Performance Team, led by High Alpha, files by Graduating Brothers and shakes hands. Each Graduating Brother is given a Cross and Crescent lapel badge and the Cross and Crescent Pyramid at the conclusion of the ceremony.]

Table Graces

The following short prayers have been written by members of the Fraternity for use at the table. Each appeared in the 1920 edition of the Ritual Book.

It is both proper form and harmonious with the ideals of the Fraternity to say grace before meals in the chapter house and at other gatherings of the Fraternity.

“O Lord, bless this food to our bodies, and Lambda Chi Alpha to Thy service. Amen.”

“Our Father, may we again recall that Thou art the Author of all true brotherhood as well as the Creator of all material things; and as we partake of this food, which is a gift of Thy providing, may our physical strength be renewed for a more intelligent use of all our abilities and a more full expression of our fraternal duties. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.”

“Our Father, we are thankful for this food and for the pleasure and profit we have in each others’ companionship. May we not forget that this good comes from Thee; and as we eat of the bounties which come from Thy hand, may our conversation and point of view manifest that we are at least partially worthy of what we have. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.”

“O, Thou great Jehovah, Creator of all things, Giver of every good and perfect gift, we return thanks unto Thee for this expression of Thy beneficence and care. Feed Thou our souls on heavenly food, and join our hearts in Christian brotherhood. We ask it in Thy name, our Guide. Amen. “

Memorial to a Member

A memorial may be conducted on the occasion of the death of a member, undergraduate or alumnus, or as an annual event remembering all deceased brothers of the Chapter or Colony. It should be a public ceremony that might take several forms:

[1] Part of the funeral service of a member.

This should only occur upon the specific request of the family. When asked to participate, consult the officiating member of the clergy as to what small role is appropriate. A brother reading a portion of the standard service is one excellent idea; if asked what you would like to do, offer several pieces selected from this material and suggest that a brother read one of them. Be sensitive to the customs of the church as to what is appropriate; for example, flowers are not used at funerals in some faiths.

The funeral director should also be consulted.

Be careful to respect, first and foremost, the wishes of the family.

If no request is forthcoming by the family, do not initiate special fraternity participation; instead schedule your own memorial service in addition to attending the funeral.

NEVER participate in the graveside service. This is usually the most difficult time for the family and needs to be kept brief. There is already a religious service and perhaps a military or other fraternal service. Support the mourning family solely by your presence at the grave.

[2] Dedication of a plaque or room.

Upon the death of an undergraduate or of an alumnus who was actively involved with the chapter, the formal dedication of a recent improvement to the chapter property or a room in the chapter house is an option. The school chaplain or other member of the clergy should be asked to officiate. Work with the clergy involved to combine a standard dedication with selections from the recommended material.

An informal reception with light refreshments might follow the ceremony.

[3] A gathering to reminisce.

For many individuals the greatest comfort is obtained not through a formal ceremony but in quiet conversation. A period of a half hour to an hour can be set aside for the chapter to gather in the memory of the deceased member. Over light refreshments the conversation, in small and large groups of changing composition, would naturally turn to memories of being with the individual -- his talents, personality, and even foibles. This gathering is similar to a traditional wake.

[4] A formal memorial service of the fraternity.

The service should be conducted either in the chapter house or in the college chapel.

[Obviously, you need to discuss your plans with and obtain the consent of the Chaplain in the latter case.] The High Alpha would normally preside.

The outline is intended only as a guide; there is no “prescribed memorial service” of Lambda Chi Alpha. Following the outline are suggested poems, vignettes and hymns that can be used in a service in remembrance of one or more members. Depending upon the material selected, the service can be designed as heavily Christian, heavily Jewish, or interfaith.

Outline of a Fraternity Memorial Service

During the period of 1982 to 1984, the Committee on Emblems and Ritual was charged with the task of reviewing all of Lambda Chi Alpha’s ritualistic practices. Based on the Committee discussions, the Rev. Dr. George McDaniel, Iota-Chi, drafted this outline for a memorial service.

The closed Bible is placed on the triangular altar that also contains a single white candle, a bowl of sand, and a single white rose. [If the service is conducted outside the chapter house, the altar and first and last speeches of the High Alpha should be omitted.] If desired, the officers may stand in a crescent behind the altar and the remaining members in a crescent in front of the altar; or a single crescent in front of the altar may be used.

High Alpha Brother High Phi, you will prepare the altar of Lambda Chi Alpha for our memorial service.

[High Phi opens the Bible to Ecclesiastes 12 and lights the candle.]

High Alpha Our Brother, _____, has departed from the bond of Lambda Chi Alpha. Although life has deserted his physical body, we know his spirit lives eternally and will dwell in the hearts of those who love him.

[Associate Member may be substituted for Brother.

For an annual memorial service, substitute:

Brother High Gamma, you will call the roll of the deceased members of _____ Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha.

High Gamma reads names, Zeta number, and date of death]

[the following or other appropriate invocation may be used]

High Alpha Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we come to you in our weakness, and humbly ask your help. We lay our burden of sorrow at your feet, and cry aloud for comfort in our affliction.

You have seen fit to remove Brother _____ [these brothers] from among us. Through his death [their deaths] may we be reminded of the uncertainty

of human life, and the frailty of all things earthly. Grant that we may be solemnly impressed with the necessity of preparing ourselves for the great change which awaits us all.

Amen.

High Alpha Brother High Kappa, you will read the lesson.

[One or more poems or vignettes may occur here. If more than one is read, several officers may participate. If several items are used, one or more hymns sung by all present should be used between readings. Some suggested material follows this outline. For a recently deceased member an obituary can be read as well as having one or two brothers who knew the deceased well speak about him. The High Alpha should announce each portion in a fashion similar to that above.]

High Alpha A time of grief is a time of Love, a time of Faith, and a time of Hope. Our faith in God supports us as we suffer the loss of a loved one. Our hope is strengthened by trust in God who assures us that He can and does sustain us. Love for each other reaches a new high as we come together to mourn, to bring someone we love to final rest, and to thank God for sharing His life with us through Brother _____ [our brothers].

We are surrounded by signs which can offer to all of us the consolation which God provides at this time. The delicate, silvery crescent, rising in the sky, symbolizes for us birth; the birth of a soul. And as the crescent grows into the full moon reflecting the light of the sun, so does it represent the growth of a spiritual realization within us reflecting the glory of God.

Brothers, also remember our open motto, Per Crucem Crescens, the crescent in the cross, growth through proper striving.

High Beta Let us pray together:

[either The Lord's Prayer or The Kaddish is strongly recommended.]

The Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9b-13]

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: [For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.] Amen.

The Kaddish can be found on the following page.

The Kaddish

Let the glory of God be extolled, let His great name be hallowed, in the world whose creation He willed, May His kingdom soon prevail, in our own day, our own lives, and the life of all Israel, and let us say: Amen.

Let His great name be blessed for ever and ever.

Let the name of the Holy One, blessed is He, be glorified, exalted, and honored, though He is beyond all the praises, songs, and adorations that we can utter, and let us say: Amen.

For us and for all Israel, may the blessings of peace and the promise of life come true, and let us say: Amen.

May He who causes peace to reign in the high heavens let peace descend on us, on all Israel, and all the world, and let us say: Amen.

May the Source of peace send peace to all who mourn, and comfort to all who are bereaved. Amen.

High Alpha And now brothers, as a sign of the peace and brotherhood that exists among us, let us greet one another in a sign of peace.

[Brothers greet one another with a warm handshake or embrace.]

High Alpha Brother High Phi, we have concluded our memorial service. You will prepare the altar for dismissal.

[High Phi snuffs out the candle with his thumb and forefinger and closes the Bible.]

[The High Alpha silently leads those assembled from the room.]

Possible Readings from the Old Testament

Psalm 23

The LORD Is My Shepherd
A Psalm of David.

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 for ever.

Psalm 43:3-5

O send out thy light and thy truth:
let them lead me;
let them bring me unto thy holy hill,
and to thy tabernacles.
Then will I go unto the altar of God,
unto God my exceeding joy:
yea, upon the harp will I praise thee,
O God my God.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul?
And why art thou disquieted within me?
Hope in God: for I shall yet praise him,
who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 133

The Blessings of Brotherly Unity
A Song of degrees of David.
How good it is and how pleasant
for brothers to live together!
It is fragrant as oil poured upon the head
and falling over the beard,
Aaron's beard, when the oil runs down
over the collar of his vestments.
It is like the dew of Hermon falling upon
the hills of Zion.
There the LORD bestows his blessing,
life for evermore.

Also: Psalm 27:1-6, Psalm 42, Psalm 103, Psalm 130, Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:7

Possible Readings from the New Testament

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 11:25-26a

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

John 14:1-4

Jesus the Way to the Father

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Romans 14:7-9

For no one of us lives, and equally no one of us dies, for himself alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Whether therefore we live or die, we belong to the Lord. This is why Christ died and came to life again, to establish his lordship over dead and living.

I John 2:8-10

And yet again it is a new command that I am giving you -- new in the sense that the darkness is passing and the real light already shines. Christ has made this true, and it is true in your own experience.

A man may say, 'I am the light'; but if he hates his brother, he is still in the dark. Only the man who loves his brother dwells in light: there is nothing to make him stumble.

Also: Matthew 5:14-16, Matthew 25:31-40, Romans 5:1-11, Romans 6:3-11, I Corinthians 13

Possible Vignettes

An American Indian at the grave of his chief

You have merely lost the man. You still have the world in which he lived and which he so enjoyed. You still have its beauty and its loveliness, and you still have the blue skies to which he looked; you have the wind and the rain and the sun and the silvery moon. The stars still will glitter in the skies at night; the corn still will ripen; the deer will roam the forests of your fathers, and the fish will leap in the stream.

The Great Spirit has only taken to Him the man. You lose only that. He will be happy there in the happy hunting grounds of our fathers. The Great Spirit leaves all the other things and the memory of the son He has taken to His tepee.

Meditation XVII John Donne c 1571-1631

No man is an Island, entire of itself;
every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were;
any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to
know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

William Wordsworth 1770-1850

Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind...
In the faith that looks through death,
In years that bring the philosophic mind.

And O, ye fountains, meadows, hills and grove,
Forbode not any severing of our loves!
Yet in my heart of hearts I feel your might;
I only have relinquished one delight
To live beneath your more habitual sway.

Edwin Markham, Rollins

There is a destiny that makes us brothers,
None goes his way alone.
All that we send into the lives of others
comes back into our own.

Episcopal Book of Common Prayer

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. Amen.

A Shropshire Lad
XIX To an athlete dying young

The time you won your town the race
We chaired you through the market-place;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

To-day, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home,
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away
From fields where glory does not stay
And early though the laurel grows
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut
Cannot see the record cut,
And silence sounds no worse than cheers
After earth has stopped the ears:

Now you will not swell the rout
Of lads that wore their honours out,
Runners whom renown outran
And the name died before the man.

So set, before its echoes fade,
The fleet foot on the sill of shade,
And hold to the low lintel up
The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round that early-laurelled head
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead
And find unwithered on its curls
The garland briefer than a girl's.

The Epitaph - Thomas Gray

Here rests his head upon the lap of Earth,
A Youth to Fortune and to Fame unknown.
Fair Science frowned not on his humble birth,
And Melancholy marked him for her own.

Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere,
Heaven did a recompense as largely send:
He gave to Misery all he had, a tear,
He gained from Heaven ('twas all he wished) a friend.

No father seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode,
(There they alike in trembling hope repose,)
The bosom of his Father and his God.

Henry David Thoreau

Even the death of friends will inspire us as much as their lives.... Their memories will be encrusted over with sublime and pleasing thoughts, as monuments of other men are overgrown with moss; for our friends have no place in the graveyard.

Attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Just Friends - George H. Free

'Twould never do for God to live across the street,
Or in the house next door, where we should daily meet;
So in His wisdom and His love He sometimes sends
His angels kind to walk with us -- we call them "friends."

Just friends -- one word! But letters can express
A wealth of sympathy and pure unselfishness.
One syllable -- a single breath can form it -- friends,
Yet O how much our happiness on them depends!

When trouble comes, or loss, when grief is ours to bear,
They come, our friends, with words of cheer, our load to share.
How could we face defeat without a friend's caress?
Had we no friend to praise, how bare would be success!

A friend will never doubt, though foes may vilify,
Nor is there need, with him, the falsehood to deny,
And should we go astray, or guilt our fair fame kill,
Though conscious of our faults, forgive and love us still.

Tis not God's plan that we shall see Him face to face.
Yet He would hedge us in with His abounding grace;
And so His messengers of love to earth He sends.
They're angels, but we know it not, and call them "friends."

Brotherhood - Edwin Markham, Rollins

The crest and crowning of all good --
Life's final star, is brotherhood;
For it will bring again to earth
Her long lost poesy and mirth;
Will send new light on every face,
A kingly power upon the race.
And 'till it comes we men are slaves,
And travel downward to the dust of graves.
Come, clear the way, then, clear the way:
Blind creeds and kings have had their day.
Break the dead branches from the path;
Our hope is in the aftermath --
Our hope is in heroic men,
Star-led to build the world again.
To this event the ages ran:
Make way for brotherhood, make way for man!

Hymns

Abide with Me

adapted from Luke 24:29 by Henry F. Lyte
sung to Eventide by W. H. Monk

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

adapted from I Chronicles 17:16-17 by John Newton
sung to the early American melody Amazing Grace

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

adapted from I Corinthians 2:2 and Galatians 6:14 by Johann Schwedler
sung to Hendon by H. A. Cesar Malan

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

by William Williams
sung to CWM Rhondda by John Hughes

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

by Edward Hopper
sung to Pilot by John E. Gould

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

by Henry vanDyke
sung to Hymn to Joy adapted from Beethoven

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

adapted from John 6:37 by Charlotte Elliott
sung to Woodworth by William B. Bradbury

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

by Ray Palmer
sung to Olivet by Lowell Mason

Nearer, My God, to Thee

adapted from Genesis 28:10-22 by Sarah F. Adams
sung to Bethany by Lowell Mason

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

by George Matheson
sung to St. Margaret by Albert L. Peace

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

by Washington Gladden
sung to Maryton by H. Percy Smith

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a lifetime of true brotherhood