



Grand Commandery of Minnesota

Knights Templar

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A few years ago, I was going to take a trip to Nebraska. A Brother had asked me to stop in his remote Nebraskan town to visit and see the great things his Masonic Lodge was doing

One day my Mother called and asked if I stop over to her house just before I left for my trip. My elderly Mother was concerned about my travels and made cookies for the trip she told me. When I arrived, she had two brown paper bags on the kitchen stove. Mom said “Now Tom, promise me you will use what’s in those bags? I was thinking one contained cookies, and the other was a packed lunch of home-made bread with egg salad or ham salad sandwiches. I cheerfully said, “I promise Mom.”

I looked into the smaller brown paper bag and found the usual assortment of my favorite cookies. I reached into the other bag and discovered one of those GPS navigation things. Mom Said “Now Tom, I borrowed that from Mary Ann Davis husband, Jim. You know, they travel all the time and Jim says it really works. So, you plug that into your car and use it, call me when you get there, goodbye and I love you”

As promised, I put the GPS on the dash, plugged it in, and proceed on my way. It was an uneventful trip. I thought that I was almost there when the GPS screen displayed “Redirecting” “lost signal” Redirecting” I just ignored it, and continued driving. Later the GPS started dinging and the screen displayed a bright yellow color with the words Arrived! I stopped the car and got out and I was looking at this small country cemetery on a cloudless beautiful fall day. I looked down the road, and there was an elderly woman and a young teen-age girl walking.

As they approached the elderly woman said “What are doing out here? Are you looking for somebody? I said “Hi Im looking for Bob Johnson and the Masonic Lodge.” She said “Well Bob is alive we saw him just

an hour ago. So why are you looking for the living among the dead?” I was looking at the gravestones when she was saying that. I thought whoa, that’s right out of Luke 24. And that brings us to today’s story of celebrating Easter.

For us Christians Easter is the most holy day of the year. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A group of women from Galilee were followers of Jesus Christ. They had witnessed Jesus Christ suffer and die on the cross. They watched Joseph of Arimathea take Jesus from the cross and wrap him in linen. One of the women followed Joseph to a new unused tomb and watched as Jesus was laid in it. They went home to prepare spices, and ointments to embalm him, but by the time they had finished it was the Sabbath according to Jewish tradition.

Then early on next day they took the spices that they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered the tomb, they found that the body of Lord Jesus was gone. They stood there perplexed, suddenly two men in clothes that dazzled stood beside them, and the women were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground.

Then the men said “why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here: he has risen! Remember how he told you, while you were back in Galilee, “that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day be raised again.” Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told the Eleven Disciples and to everyone else of what had happened.

Currently we are in the midst of observing the Easter Season. We are celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. What that means for us as Christians is that because of His sacrifice for us on the Cross and by His resurrection from the tomb has won victory for us over sin and death. We are also reminded of His promise that we will live forever with Him in His Kingdom.

Look beyond the Cross and the Empty Tomb...For He has Risen.