



Washington Supplement
SK W. Gary Norton, REGC
SK Bryan D. Bechler, PC, COH, KCT
Editor
bry.kat@frontier.com



Grand Prelate's Easter Message

Greetings fellow Sir Knights—

The celebration of the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is a story that unfolds in what is often called the Holy or Passion Week. It begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on an ass. The population celebrated this by lining his path with their cloaks or cutting branches from trees and spreading them on the road. This event is often celebrated as Palm Sunday. The next day, Monday, details the Lord cleansing the Temple, overturning the tables of the money changers, and declaring "*...It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.*" Luke 19:46. Tuesday the enemies of our Lord conspired to halt His ministry and end His life. Wednesday was the day when Judas Iscariot first conspired to betray our Lord. The most bittersweet day of this holy week was Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" comes from the first word of a Latin phrase "Mandatum..." The whole phrase translated into English informs us "*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye Love one another. As I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*" John 13:34. This was the day of the Passover, one of the most important days in Jewish lore. This is to celebrate the liberation of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses. Together with his apostles, Jesus met in the large upper room of a home. Our Lord washed the feet of the apostles prior to celebrating the Passover meal. At this meal the Lord introduced the liturgy that is repeated whenever Christians gather together to celebrate communion. "*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, brake it, gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the*

remission of sins." Matthew 26: 26-28. Following the meal they went to the garden of Gethsemane. "*And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*" Luke 22:44. It was in this place where, with a kiss, Judas betrayed our Lord. Jesus was accused, tried and declared guilty by the Jewish religious leaders at Jerusalem this same night. Good Friday began with Jesus being brought before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Following Pilate's concurrence He was scourged, beaten, mocked and forced to carry His cross. Later at "*...Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull.*" Matthew 27:33, our Lord was crucified as He willingly suffered for the sins of mankind, which suffering led to our salvation. The next day, Saturday, Jesus was buried in His tomb. The tomb was sealed and soldiers stood guard to ensure that his followers could not steal the body and then claim Jesus had been raised from the dead. On Easter Sunday, there was an earthquake and the tomb was unsealed by an angel. When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb they found it empty and the angel told them that He had risen and that they would meet him in Galilee. There Jesus appeared to his disciples and told them "*...Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*" Matthew 28:20. Sir Knights I encourage you to reflect on these events in our Savior's last days and the ultimate sacrifice He made for us. Reflect on the anguish and agony He suffered on the cross. But after reflection, move beyond it and find joy in the liberation from sin that came with the atonement. I wish for all a joyful Easter!



Sir Knight Ian Hyde
Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington