



Missouri Supplement

Russell S. Hanson, PGC, Editor
107 S. Williams St., Fayette, MO 65248-1017
573-864-4434 (cell)
hansonr@missouri.edu



Lift Me Up, Oh Lord!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

This year we will celebrate Easter on the 4th of April. Our preparation for it started on February 17th, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent which represents the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before his earthly ministry. The week leading up to Easter Sunday is considered as Holy Week. This special time includes the following events:

The Last Supper – Maundy Thursday,

Good Friday – the day that Christ was crucified,

Holy Saturday which is the focus of transition between crucifixion and the resurrection, and

Easter Sunday when Christ broke the chains of death.

Easter is followed by a fifty day period referred to as the Eastertide which is the length of time between Resurrection Sunday and the ascension of Christ into Heaven.

As we prepare for this important Christian Holiday, we must remember that Easter is the celebration around which the Order of the Temple and the creation of every new Sir Knight was established. For without Christ there would be no Knights Templar. With every conferral of the Order of the Temple, we rededicate ourselves to this Christian experience.

We should all remember the way that Apostle Paul expressed it in Romans 6: 23 (NIV), "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." Let us give thanks to the Lord this Easter. Come to us Lord and fill our hearts with your spirit of truth and unity that we may better serve you in this world and the world to come. We pray in Jesus name. Amen

As we gather this year with our family and attend the church of our choice to celebrate this Holiest of Christian Holidays, may I, on behalf of the Grand Commandery Officers, wish for you a Happy and Joyous Easter. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Christianity - Templary - In Christ's Footsteps!

Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, Grand Commander

SHINE YOUR LIGHT

Our faith in Jesus Christ lifts us up so we can shine His Light on the world.

Shining His Light is about making a mark. We should strive to make a difference in the world. We should endeavor to be positive influencers of others while ignoring the negativity of the naysayers. The Light of Jesus is also our Light and it is a special gift given to us by the Lord. Our Light makes us who we are. Our Light reflects our special character – the most wonderful parts of our life. Our Light reflects our value and worth. Our Light is the Light of Jesus and shines His love on the world.

The Light of Jesus is described as "the Light of the World." In John 1: 4-5 (NIV), John says of Jesus, "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." The Light that shines in us is the Light in Jesus. When we give our life to Jesus, then His Light will shine through our lives. It shines through our actions and reflects the love, compassion, kindness, peace, and forgiveness of Jesus. The Light is reflected in our attitude, words, and deeds toward others.

So what does it mean to shine our Light? We shine our Light by speaking the truth of Jesus. However, we have a challenge because people, in general, have an issue with hearing the truth. In James 3: 8 (NIV), James states, "... but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." Proverbs 18: 21 (NIV) states that, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." But we are encouraged by Ephesians 4: 29 (NIV) that states, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Sir Knights, we need to resist the negative people who try to destroy our world with their poisonous opinions. We need to remain strong in our faith. We need to stand firm in the Lord and His Truth. Our journey in Christ is beautiful and we should live each day without any concern about the opinions of others. The world would be so much brighter if people would stop gossiping about others. We should lift up the good that we see in all people and pray to God for their faults. We should always allow our words to heal others. The purpose of shining our Light, the Light of Jesus, is to give glory to God.

Sir Knight Russell S. Hanson, PGC, Editor

GOD'S LOVE WILL SPRING FORTH

The spring of the year brings the rebirth of nature and a new beginning. The flowers break through the ground with colorful blooms to come forth after the drabness of winter. Our spiritual life is renewed and what God can do in our life shall spring forth, too. We need to open our hearts to God's work in our lives. We need to thank Him in advance for doing new things in our life and watch for new miracles to spring forth and burst out in this new season.