

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for April 2023**

Web Site



Grand Commander SK James R. Taylor REGC

Editor SK John E. King VEDGC, Email: jek41@sbcglobal.net Cell: (580) 471-0636



Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

As Knights Templar this month we reflect on the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In fact, in going through the Orders to become a Knight Templar we review the events in the life of Jesus, and the history of the Knights in lectures about the Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. As we have traveled through our degrees of the Masonic lodge we are taught about the mortality of man, from the initiation or birth of a new mason through youth to manhood and old age. The symbology continued when we helped raise a fallen brother from a dead level to a living perpendicular, as well as being taught to use the working tools to help us fit the great architects plan, fitting ourselves as living stones to build that house not made by hands eternal in the heavens. In the many degrees we have contemplated our mortality, but it is the Commandery that we as Knights Templar speak of our personal faith and belief in Christ.

It is now at this time before the Passover that we, along with millions of faithful Christians of many different churches, reread and contemplate the passion of Christ. The triumphant entry into the city, the last supper which we celebrate as Maundy Thursday, the betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, death and burial. These are biblical events, and the timing is just before Passover. We now celebrate them as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Services on good Friday have traditionally been 3 hours long to symbolize the length of time Christ was on the Cross. It was Good Friday because Christ would be the last sacrifice for our sins.

Biblically, there was no Good Friday and no Easter celebrations, in fact at the time of the crucifixion the only sunrise service celebration and spring rites celebration with eggs and bunnies were pagan rites and were to be shunned. It was not until sometime in 3rd through 8th centuries that the early church began in earnest, trying to convert those non-Christians and pagans to believe in Christ. In doing so they usurped several of the pagan celebrations and rewrote them to fit the narrative of the church. This is good to know historically, but it still brings us to the biblical belief that has saved the souls of

countless generations of believers. This belief we, as Knights Templar, have vowed to share is that Christ died for our sins, defeated death, and arose on the third day that all who believe in him shall have life eternal.

I pray that you will share the 'good news', continue to do good works and Glorify our Father in heaven!

In His Service,

S K James R. Taylor, Jr.
R.: E.: Grand Commander



Grand Prelate's Message

"The True Message of Easter"

A new covenant

The true message of Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and marks the beginning of a new covenant between God and man. It was indeed a colossal event in Bible history. I have summarized the verses to tell the story of Jesus' life from birth to resurrection.

The Significance of Easter

Satan had lied and tricked Adam and Eve into sinning, causing them to be cast out of the Garden of Eden and all of humanity to be separated from God, and condemned to Hell.

Then God confronted Satan and told him that One of Eve's offspring would one day restore His people and that he, Satan, would be cast into a lake of fire. (Gen 3)

God loved mankind, so He sent His prophets to tell them that He would send a Savior, the Messiah, or "Anointed One." The Messiah arrived in the form of a baby, and His name was Jesus.

God is Alive Jesus is Real

Jesus had been given an assignment by God to save the world from their sins, and He had obeyed.

He healed the sick, cast out demons, and condemned the false leaders of His people; gave His life for the sins of all mankind so that all who would believe in Him could have Eternal Life, (John 5).

Historical records abound attesting to the life of Jesus. His life and death on earth are the most proven of all historical figures.

Jesus' Great Intercessory Prayer

Shortly before His arrest Jesus, offered a very special prayer often referred to as, "The Great Intercessory Prayer."

Many Scholars consider this prayer to be a conversation between Jesus and His Father, God, with Jesus speaking His requests into existence.

First, He prayed for Himself:

That the Father would receive Him back into Heaven and restore the glory He had before the world began. (John 17).

Then He prayed for His Disciples:

That the Father would protect, guide and be with them as they delivered His message. (John 17).

Then he prayed for all Christians:

He prayed for each child of God to have the same unity as exists between Him and the Father. The unity allows for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and oneness with God. (John 17).

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Later that day Jesus was hung on a cross until dead. Near the point of death, He said with a loud voice, "It is finished!" (John 19).

Upon His death, Heaven and Earth were shaken with violent earthquakes, and the earth was covered with darkness. People who had previously died were seen walking about, and the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. (Matt 27).

The torn veil was to signify that the Spirit of God would no longer be in the Ark that had been kept in the back of the Temple as the Most Holy of Holies under the "Old Covenant."

Under the "New Covenant" the Spirit is placed in every born- again Believer. The Followers of Jesus are now His Tabernacle, (His Church).

Jesus had executed the mission given Him by His Father, and in doing so had opened the "Kingdom of Heaven" to all who would receive Him.

He was the new Passover Lamb. Never again would there be a need for animal sacrifice. The Lamb of God had shed His blood once and for all! (Luke 23 & Matt 27)

Beautiful Resurrection Morning!

Mary had gotten up early to visit the grave of Jesus, but to her surprise, the body of Jesus was missing. In His place were angels, real angels, and they said to her, "He is not here, He is risen." (Matt 28).

Surely the words of the angels at the empty tomb, "He is not here, but is risen," are among the most significant words ever spoken, (Luke 24),

Jesus had paid it all! His life, death, burial, and resurrection ushered in a new plan of Salvation for humankind. This better and more perfect way was God's "New Covenant" with His people.

Salvation and Eternal life were now available to anyone who would believe and accept Jesus as their Savior.

Every time we take the bread & drink the cup of the New Covenant, we are proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah, the Lamb of God, and Savior of the world.

No Longer Separated

No longer does mankind need to be separated from God.

Nicodemus was a Scholar and Bible teacher of the Old Testament yet had never heard that the Holy Spirit of God would enter into a person.

He could not understand what it meant to be born again, and he asked Jesus, "how is it possible?"

In the third chapter of John Jesus began to explain to Nicodemus how the Plan of Salvation would work under His New Covenant.

S K Steven Cox
E.: Grand Prelate



NOTES FROM THE GRAND RECORDER

Sir Knights, we have a full agenda for our 2023 Grand Sessions. The 134th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons will be held on Friday, April

28th, 2023, at 8:00 AM, and the 129th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons will be held Friday afternoon, starting at 1:00 PM. The 128th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar will start with a Work and Tactics meeting at 8:00 AM on Saturday, with the business session beginning at 9:00 AM. The Work and Tactics meeting is for all Sir Knights, especially the Constituent Commandery Dais Officers.

Registration for our Grand Sessions has begun. You may either, register online or print, fill out, and mail the registration form along with your check. The registration form can be found on our website, www.okyorkrite.org, and look under the events tab. A PDF of the agenda is also available under that tab. The deadline for both online and mail-in registrations is April 15th, 2023. For room reservations are separate from conference reservations. Call the hotel at (405) 942-1400 and use the group ID "Oklahoma York Rite". The deadline for room reservations is April 5th, 2023. Remember that all Dais officers are expected to attend the Grand Sessions.

Courtesy
S K Jon Greene
E.:Grand Recorder



Tishomingo Veterans Center Corner Stone