



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

S.K. Harry J. Smith, Grand Commander
smithhjktpa@gmail.com

Editor: SK Mark G. Mattern, PGC email: grandrecgcktpa@gmail.com



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My Fellow Fraters,

He IS Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!!

The Bible features many examples of scripture proclaiming the resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

Luke 24:6-7— “He is not here; he has risen!”

1 Peter 1:3— “Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

John 11:25-26 – “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whomever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Mark 15:5-7 – “As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He isn’t here. See the place where they laid him. But go tell his disciples and Peter, “He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There, you’ll see him. Just as he told you.

Powerful words. When these words were said on that Holy Day, many were skeptical. No one had ever died and come back from the dead. Jesus’ disciples, scared of what was heard, hid away. Yet, Jesus appeared before them to show he was resurrected.

We too have that same opportunity to be “reborn” and “resurrected” not only on Easter Sunday but EVERY waking day we are given. Take that time to atone for what you may have done or not done to someone; live as Jesus Christ would have wanted us to live—a good giving person, full of life, full of love and full of hope. Ready and willing to give all you can—to help those less fortunate. To come to the defense of “Innocent Maidens, Destitute Widows, Helpless Orphans and the Christian Religion.” We wear our crosses on our Uniforms proudly as Soldiers of Christ. Let us serve Him the best way we can and exemplify Him as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords!

On behalf of the Grand Elected and Appointed Officers of this GREAT Grand Commandery, Lady Pauline and I wish you all a Happy and Joyous Easter!

Courteously,
Sir Knight Harry Jude Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

Grand Prelate's Easter Message

One of the reasons I was drawn to Templary was that it was the Christian branch of our Masonic Fraternity. I thought it exciting that a bunch of Brothers would share the faith and be called to be soldiers of the "cross." As we embark on the most Holy time of Christianity I thought it would be a good time to reflect on what Easter should mean to us who claim to be Christ's soldiers and who have been charged this year by our REGC Harry to heed Christ's words to feed the sick and clothe the naked, to care for the distressed. So let me begin by saying that Easter is all about a four letter word — and you and I are called to be full of it, or at least we're supposed to be full of it.

The four-letter word is LIFE.

New life. Whole life. Abundant Life. Redeemed life. Resurrected life.

Easter says. The purpose of life is life . . . a life that triumphs over death forever.

Celebrating Easter is the best thing that we can do because it is a celebration of all that is good, all that is true, and all that is beautiful.

In fact, I would make the case that celebrating Easter is the greatest public service that Templary can perform for the world. Why? Because it is the reality of Easter that makes everything else we would do, possible.

Remember Jesus' final words on the cross? "It is finished."

On Easter "It is finished" becomes "Now it begins."

Life begins anew with the resurrected rhythms of that Easter heart. It is an Easter heart that the resurrected Jesus offered to all who believed in him, all who read the signs and symbols of new life God had left at the empty tomb.

As we celebrate Easter this year are we celebrating with people whose hearts are full of Easter? Do we have an Easter heart? Here are some ways you can tell.

- 1) An Easter heart is full of new life. An Easter heart is full of a new mission. An Easter heart is full of new possibilities. Easter reminds us that we offer signs of new life to the world.
- 2) An Easter heart throws off the old grave clothes. Have we shred our shrouds? We don't have to do it the way it has always been done. We can be fresh and alive.
- 3) An Easter heart church is full of rock-rollers. Notice I didn't say rock-and-rollers . . .

Rock-rollers offer ways out to all sorts of people, trapped in all kinds of tombs. Strengthened by an Easter heart we can . . . we can roll away despair and reveal a path to hope.

This Easter let us heed REGC Harry's call to make life better for others for when we do, we will make life better for ourselves, Templary and our World. Let us be an Easter Fraternity and be alive.

A most Happy and Holy Easter to each of you and your families.

Courteously,
Sir Knight and Reverend Preston A Van Dursen, Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania