

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa

Series 2025-2026
General Order No. 8



Jason W. Delzell, REGC
December 1st, 2025

Feast of St. John, the Evangelist

To: All Past Grand Commanders, current Grand Officers, Committee Members, Officers, and Sir Knights of all Constituent Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Iowa.

Right Eminent Grant Commander of the Grand Commandery of Iowa S.K. Jason Delzell has requested the Grand Prelate's Feast of St. John, the Evangelist be written and subsequently read in each Iowa Commandery during the month of December, 2025.

Feast of St. John, the Evangelist; December 27th.

Brothers, York Rite Masons, and your families; Seasons Greetings! Having honored St. John, the Baptist on his nativity, June 24th, we now turn to honoring St. John, the Evangelist on his nativity, December 27th. ***We Masons search for light; so how fitting is it that our two most revered men in holy scripture have births 6 months apart and very close to the observed longest and shortest days of daylight in our worlds!*** (Summer solstice: June 20-21, i.e., the longest day (of daylight) in the northern hemisphere; winter solstice: December 21-22, the shortest day (of daylight)).

Bro. Albert Mackey, M.D., 1807-1881, a pioneer in Masonic writing and encyclopedic knowledge of Masonic Landmarks, indicated that St. John the Baptist had been 'adopted as a Masonic patron by the builders in Europe for centuries; he was **a common man, a worker: look at his clothes, his food.** And Mackey then explained how St. John, the Evangelist, in several of his epistles, wrote about Christ's love for his children, and how we are to emulate the same through '**brotherly love**', thereby engendering feelings and living standards of fond and faithful friendship, which resonated highly with Masons everywhere. So St. John, the Evangelist grew in stature with Masons thru the 16th -21st centuries.

Then there's John's writings in Revelation 2:10, "*Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life*". How many times have we (!!) quoted this promise of fulfillment to a Pilgrim on his initial pilgrimage within 'the Order' if he just be steadfast!

How to honor St. John, the Evangelist? Break bread together. Cedar Valley York Rite sponsors a Christmas Dinner and Observation for all the members (and their families) of bodies that meet within the Black Hawk Lodge facilities. And Martin Lodge #624 will confer a 3rd Degree on December 29th, involving brothers from several lodges (most are also York Rite Masons), including a meal between sections of the degree. No better way could be found than your own expressions of 'brotherly love', individually, or corporately. In modern parlance, 'Just do it!'

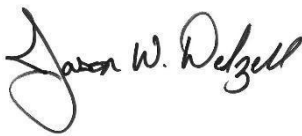
St. John, the Evangelist, wrote "*In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.*" (John 1:1) May his word be heard, seen and felt in your life and in your heart this Christmas season – ***the festive season of brotherly love!***

Jons Olsson, Grand Prelate

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Iowa

(Prelate; Commander nominee (2nd time), Baldwin Commandery #11, Cedar Falls.)

Chivalric Regards,



Jason W. Delzell
R.E. Grand Commander



Attested:



Scott A. Schabacker
Grand Recorder