

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa

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To All Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Iowa

***When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.
While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.***

Luke 24:50-51

(To be read at your next conclave)

Ascension Day Message from the Grand Prelate

“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” With these last words, the final breath of the Son of Man fled from His lungs. The light God had given suddenly withdrew, and the curtain of the Temple lay torn. The disciples’ hearts were filled with fear as they abandoned their Lord to His fate. It then fell to Joseph of Arimathea to lay the vessel of Christ in His worldly tomb. Silence fell over Creation.

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and Mary went to the grave with spices and ointments for His body. A violent shake came from the heavens as the Angel of the Lord rolled back the stone from Christ’s tomb, proclaiming that He had risen! The risen Jesus then appeared before His disciples, and according to 1 Corinthians, He was seen by over five hundred men. It says in the book of Acts that He stayed with His disciples for forty days as He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. It was here that Jesus departed from them as He ascended into the heavens, rising above the confines of this world to be seated at the right hand of the Almighty. We celebrate this day as “Ascension Day.” Ascension Day is a cornerstone of our faith as it stands as a beacon of hope that our Savior has conquered death and the grave.

The ascension of Christ signifies the completion of His physical mission on Earth. As the disciples stood gazing towards the heavens, they were not left unguided, but rather, they had been presented with a Divine Commission. They had been directed to bear witness of what they had seen, taking disciples of all nations, and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Knight Templars, this day deeply resonates with our Order as it is built upon the tenets of Faith, Hope, and Charity, three principles that are deeply woven into the Ascension of Christ.

Through our Faith we are taught to trust the unseen, knowing that our actions on this Earth serve a greater and divine purpose. In His Ascension, we are promised that He is preparing the road before us. It is on this foundation of Faith that we build His Temple in our hearts.

Hope compels us to move forward, reminding us that the tribulations before us do not compare to the power of our God. The Ascension of Christ reminds us that we are not alone and that the battles that lay before us are witnessed by the One who intercedes for us. In these battles, it is this hope that sustains us, so that we may never fall while fighting for the betterment of humanity.

Charity is the principle that embodies the love that our God showed throughout His ministry while on this Earth. As we make our pilgrimage through this world, the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus teach us to extend our hands to those in need as we serve as a beacon of light in a dark world.

I was once asked by a good friend of mine in regards to my faith, "What if you're wrong?" Rather than jumping to a defense, I genuinely pondered the question. In finding an answer to his question I found the answer to another, "How should I live my life?" Brothers, we are called to live our lives in such a way that they are wasted if Christ did not ascend. Our every breath should be based on the fact that He is alive. In doing so, we may truly stand as Knights Templar.

As we celebrate Ascension Day, let us be inspired by the sacrifice of our God, let our souls ascend into a deeper understanding of the virtues displayed by His ministry, and let us strive to reflect His light in our lives and our Order.

May this celebration of Ascension Day serve as a reminder of our mission as Knights Templar. That we may ever live lives of Faith, Hope, and Charity. I pray that we ascend in our hearts, ever reaching toward the divine and that our battles in this world bring glory to He who conquered Death.

Amen,

Sir Knight Theodore M. Boomgarden
Grand Prelate

Chivalric Regards,



Keith A. Myhre
R.E. Grand Commander



Attested:



Scott A. Schabacker
Grand Recorder