



Christmas Day Observance

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Locations: To Be Announced

PAST EXAMPLE



CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE

_____ Commandery # _____
Grand Commandery of Colorado
December _____, 2018

INSTRUCTIONS:

The Triangle Table will be placed in position, on which there will be twelve goblets, also one on the pedestal of the Commander. Prior to the commencement of the ceremony the Commander shall select 12 Sir Knights who will host the glasses at the triangle table. Glasses will be provided for all Templars present. Allow a sufficient amount of time in which to perform the following program. The Commander, Prelate and Recorder will take their stations; Sir Knights will be seated in the South or North with any guests. Required stations to be filled are Eminent Commander (EC), Prelate (P), Recorder (R), and 12 Sir Knights (Triangle Table)

EC.— * Sir Knights please take your stations, guests be seated

EC.—Excellent Prelate, please lead us in song (OPTIONAL)

ALL SING (OPTIONAL)

“HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

1. Hark the herald! Angels sing
Glory to the new born king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
2. See He lays his glory by;
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth!
3. Hail the holy Prince of peace!
Hail, the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings!

“Different Music may be substituted at the discretion of the Commander”

EC.—Excellent Prelate, please read us the old, old story

Prelate shall read Isaiah xi: 1-5; Luke ii: 4, 18-14

Isaiah xi: 1-5

P.—And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord; and shall make of him quick understanding in the fear of the Lord; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Luke ii: 1-14

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

ALL SING (OPTIONAL)

“SILENT NIGHT”

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth
3. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven above
Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

AMEN

(Different Music may be substituted at the discretion of the Commander)

EC.—Sir Knights, on this joyous day we commemorate the Birth of JESUS of Nazareth, Emmanuel, author of our salvation, and the Great Captain under whose Banner all of us have enlisted. Two thousand years ago, there was born in Bethlehem of Judea, one who laid aside the god-head, and assumed mortal flesh; one whose glory, worth and grace no language can express; one who was born that our lives might be purified, and who died that our souls might be redeemed from the penalty of sin.

Let us, as true Soldiers of the Cross, strive to profit by the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of that divine Master, and remain His faithful soldiers unto death. Seeking strength to continue that struggle let us now accompany our Excellent Prelate to the throne of the heavenly grace.

EC.—*** All arise, Sir Knights un-cover, Excellent Prelate lead our devotions

P.—ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, remember us with pity, we beseech thee, and blot out the multitude of our transgressions, for thy beloved son's sake. And may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL.—AMEN!

P.—FATHER in heaven command thy blessing to rest upon all true Knights of the Temple wherever dispersed; bestow upon them a spirit of Truth, Justice, Courage, Constancy, Faith and Humility, and make of them valiant defenders of thy holy religion. Teach them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted, for Jesus' sake.

ALL.—AMEN!

P.—O LORD command thy benediction to rest upon our Grand Master. Help him to rule over us in love, and with an eye single to thy glory. Save him from error, prejudice and pride; and while giving him firmness of purpose to do right, help him to know the right, for Christ's sake.

ALL.—AMEN!

P.—FATHER, let thy choicest blessings be with the President of the United States, and upon all in authority over us. Endue them with wisdom from on high, and may it be their chiefest joy to labor for thy glory, and the good of the people for whom they legislate, and over whom they rule. Which we ask in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel.

ALL.—AMEN!

EC.—Sir Knights re-cover, * be seated

EC.—Let the chosen twelve form around the Triangle

**** Twelve Sir Knights form around the Triangle ****

EC.—Let the libations be poured into the goblets on the Triangle, and on the Pedestal, and let every Knight be furnished with a prepared goblet

TOAST TO THE MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER
(Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA)

EC.—A toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment USA. Sir Knight Recorder, read the Grand Prelate's toast

R.—A toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment USA by the Apartments of the Grand Prelate and the Religious Activities Committee, Reverend Sir Knight Arthur F. Hebbeler, III:

“Year of Our Lord 2018 to all Valiant and Magnanimous Knights of the Temple,
wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~ Salutations and Knightly
Greetings:

A toast to our Most Eminent Grand Master

Christmas 2018

We offer a toast to you, our Most Eminent Grand Master, at this Christmas season
in the year of Our Lord 2018. On behalf of the Chivalric Masons of this Grand
Encampment of the United States of America and of the Fraters in all counties

where Knights Templars dwell and serve who bear allegiance to you, we raise our glasses in your honor as you begin as our servant leader.

We and our families celebrate with you and yours the nativity of the child Jesus, born to his Virgin Mother Mary in the humility of a stable, surrounded by sheep, oxen, and donkeys. We remember his bed of hay in a manger carved from the living rock of Bethlehem. We uncover as did the kings and shepherds as we worship the Savior of the world who is smiling in sleep. We ponder the knowledge that He is born to teach, heal, suffer, die, rise again from death, and finally ascend in glory to the Father. We echo the words of the prophet Isaiah (6:6-7)

*“6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”*

To you, Grand Master, we raise our voices in the most profound expressions of our fraternal love. We life our hearts in humble prayers for the prosperity and happiness of your house. We ardently invoke the Almighty’s blessings upon your governance of our order, your oversight of our ministries, and your administration of our charities. With gratitude we look forward to the next three years of your leadership with certainty of your capabilities and vision as you have amply demonstrated to us these last years. We look forward to seeing you in our asylums, and we know you will represent our order before Masons and non-Masons with dignity, humor, and eloquence.

We pledge to you and your lady, Lisa, our faithful support throughout your term in office. May the light and peace of Christ perfect in your heart the eternal virtues of faith, hope, and love. May our Lord enable you to bring joy, healing, wisdom, and challenge wherever you journey. We toast you, Sir Knight Jeffrey Nelson, our Most Eminent Grand Master and wish for you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

A toast to you, Most Eminent Grand Master!

In His Name,
The Reverend Sir Knight Kenneth D. Fuller, PGC, Chairman
The Reverend Sir Knight Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, Grand Prelate”

EC.—Sir Knights, arise! Sir Knight Recorder, read the Most Eminent Grand Master’s response
(The Recorder will read the response as supplied to the Commandries)

EC.—To our Grand Master! Partake

All Sir Knights repeat,—" To our Grand Master, Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson," and drink

EC.—Sir Knight Recorder, read the Grand Master's response

The Recorder will read the response in a clear, loud voice

R.—The response of the Most Eminent Grand Master, Sir Knight Jeffrey Norman Nelson:

"To the Right Eminent Grand Prelate, the Committee on Religious Activities, and to all Sir Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Knightly Greetings!

A most sincere thank you from Lady Lisa and me to the Right Eminent Grand Prelate and the members of the Committee on Religious Activities for their heartfelt Toast this Christmas season in the year of Our Lord 2018.

The Toast offered invokes the Almighty's blessings on my behalf, and I am honored and privileged to work with each of you in the service of Templary. The Toast alludes to the concept of the servant leader which is especially applicable to Templary. The characteristic of the servant leader that perhaps most applies to the office of Grand Master is that of stewardship. The individual privileged to occupy the office of Grand Master is a steward and as such, with the guidance of the Almighty, can assist each member of our beloved Grand Encampment to realize his full potential, whatever it may be in His divine plan.

We pray that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, each of you will find Peace this Christmas season. Let us also remember those less fortunate than ourselves, not only during this Christmas season, but throughout the year.

The officers of the Grand Encampment and their ladies join with my Lady Lisa and me in wishing each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Courteously,
Jeffrey Norman Nelson, GCT
Grand Master"

TOAST TO THE GRAND COMMANDER
(Grand Commandry of Knights Templar of Colorado)

EC.—A toast to the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Colorado. Sir Knight Recorder, read the Grand Chaplin’s toast

R.—A toast to the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Colorado by the Grand Chaplin, Sir Knight Rick Calhoun:

“We celebrate your faithful leadership and integrity. We also celebrate your many masonic accomplishments and your great faithfulness to your duties. You have been and remain a masonic mentor to many others. We are grateful for the support of your family members who are rightfully proud of what you have accomplished. Finally, we are all thankful for the opportunity to serve with you in this year. A toast to you, Right Eminent Grand Commander.”

EC.—To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Colorado, Sir Knight Peter D. DuMont! Partake!

All Sir Knights repeat, —"To the Grand Commander," and drink

EC.—Sir Knight Recorder, read the Right Eminent Grand Commander’s sentiment
(The Recorder will read the sentiment as supplied to the Commandries)

R.—The response of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Peter D. DuMont:

“As human beings, we frequently have differences between us, and consequently become preoccupied with all the perceived barriers to unity. As we approach Christmas we need a timely reminder of what it’s all about. God sent Christ to us for a purpose – to bring mankind into a relationship with its Creator. Jesus came that all might know the saving Grace of God. Romans 15:13 translated ‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’ The world needs hope at this moment.”

TOAST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

EC.—To all Knights Templar wherever dispersed! Partake

All Sir Knights repeat— “To all Knights Templar wherever dispersed,” and drink

EC.—Sir Knights please lower your goblets

EC.—Sir Knights un-cover

EC.—let us take a moment of silence for all Knights Templar who have shed their blood in defense of liberty and Christianity

EC.—let us recall the hallow memories of the Fraters of our own jurisdiction that have joined the silent majority

EC.—In memory of the dead of this jurisdiction during the year 2018, and to the memory of the dead of this Commandery:

Sir Knight _____

Sir Knight _____
Sir Knight _____
Sir Knight _____

The Eminent Commander will lower his head and pause for a few seconds

EC.—Sir Knights, re-cover

TOAST TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

(Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado)

EC.—To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Colorado, Most Worshipful Brother Philip E. Moss! Partake

All Sir Knights repeat,—"To Most Worshipful Grand Master," and drink

EC.—Sir Knights, We have been refreshed by these hallowed memories, now let us receive the benediction of our Excellent Prelate

EC.—Sir Knights, secure goblets

BENEDICTION

P.—May the Lord bless thee and keep thee; may the Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

END OF THE OBSERVANCE.

