



Most Eminent Knight

David P. Hardie G.C.T.

Supreme Grand Master 2017-2019

Sovereign Great Priory of Canada Knights Templar

Supreme Grand Master's Easter Message 2018

Sir Knights, Fraters, and Families

Greetings and Rejoicing at this Eastertide 2018!

It seems as though we were just celebrating Christmas, the birth of our Saviour and the Captain of our Salvation and in the few weeks following that we find ourselves in the season of Lent, that time for preparation, self-reflection and, spiritual discernment. For many Lent is a time to "give up" something as a way to prepare. For others it may be more appropriate to begin a new habit toward self-improvement. Either way we are preparing for the greatest moment in our Christian faith: the Celebration of the Resurrection.

While Christmas is the most party-like feast day of the Christian calendar, Easter is the most important. The entire promise of God pivots on the events of that first Easter morning. In fact, all four of the Gospels take their climax from the events at Calvary. As in many circumstances a hero is unknown prior to the heroic event, so too is the story of Jesus. Sure, He was a celebrated rabbi and a teacher extraordinaire, but his actual identity as Messiah and Saviour was not fully appreciated until the Resurrection. At that point, the disciples looked back and tried to piece together the birth, life and ministry of Jesus. Each of the Gospel writers did the same. They took the highlight of the presence of God with us and then in a retrograde recollection told their stories.

The human realization of God's promise of salvation begins only at the time of God raising Jesus from the tomb after the suffering and passion experienced on Good Friday. All the healing miracles, the new teachings surrounding the scriptures (Jewish Scriptures) and the life of Jesus in real time came to a crashing disappointment on the arrest, trial, torture and crucifixion of their rabbi. These followers were in abject despair until the morning of the first day of the week when the empty tomb was discovered and Jesus appeared to them at various places. Then it was that these followers understood Jesus' word about being raised on the third day. Then it was that they comprehended Jesus as the Son of God and the Son of Man. Easter is the time of the proof of God's plan of salvation. Without the Easter event, we would never have been able to celebrate Christmas or for that matter any other Christian celebration.

Easter is the time, which proves our Faith, and is a time to understand what God has accomplished in Jesus. The Birth, Life and Death of Christ find their true and ultimate meaning on the Easter morning and the Resurrection.

As we attend our various church services for Easter, let us remember what God is doing for us. Amid all the strife and suffering that seems so prevalent in our world there is joy in knowing that God is still in control despite human activity. We have so much for which to be grateful; our families, our friends, those who serve to protect us, and our beloved Order.

May this Easter be one of Peace, Joy and Renewal of Faith, the first and foremost of the Foundations of Freemasonry. Carol and I would like to extend our blessings for a very Happy Easter.

Yours in Faith and in the Bonds of our Order

M. Em. Kt. David P. Hardie, G.C.T., Supreme Grand Master