

MINNESOTA SUPPLEMENT

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Bruce V. Brendal
Grand Commander



“...to go where no one has gone before!”

Some of you may recognize the partial quote from the many and varied Star Trek shows. But I mean to reflect on the Ascension of Christ, to heaven. Ascension Day is often lost in the shuffle when compared to Easter or Christmas. Yet, it is one of our special Knight Templar Observances, and as such it is given equal importance to Easter and Christmas. I would hazard a guess that many people’s familiarity with “the Ascension” is only from passing mention in the Nicene or Apostle’s Creeds. So, here are some things to think about!

Ascension: *Latin* “to go up.” The Ascension of Our Lord is the fortieth day of the Easter season, and celebrates Christ’s ascension to heaven. This festival has been in the Church calendar since the fourth century.

But what is the significance? As stated in the Heidelberg Catechism (1562): “Q. 46. How do you understand the words: “He ascended into heaven”? A: That Christ was taken up from the earth into heaven before the eyes of his disciples *and remains there on our behalf* until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.” (emphasis mine.) Further amplification is given in question 49: “What benefit do we receive from Christ’s ascension into heaven? A: First, that he is our Advocate in the presence of his Father in heaven. Second, that we have our flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that he, as the Head, will also take us, his members, up to himself. Third, that he sends us his Spirit as a counterpledge by whose power we seek what is above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God, and not things that are on earth.”

Agreed, that is a mouthful. Essentially, God’s saving work on earth through Christ has been completed, and the Ascension is the indicator of that work’s completion. Christ remains in heaven, preparing a place for us and making intercession on our behalf until we may join him in heaven. His Spirit is a presence for us as a reminder that all good things come from God above, not from the forces of the earth.

As we know from Jesus’ resurrection, his actions allow us to “live long and prosper” by enjoying Eternal Life, in our belief in him, our Redeemer, Intercessor, and Savior of the Nations!

Fiat Lux,
Mark A. Anderson, KTCH, KCT
Grand Prelate, 2008-2009

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ONE HUNDRED FORTY FOURTH GRAND CONCLAVE

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Minnesota will be conducting their annual grand sessions on Thursday, June 25, 2009 through June 27, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, Willmar Minnesota. The Grand Council Grand Assembly will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2009. The evening activities will include a “Public Opening” and a Memorial Service for the three bodies. The Grand Commandery will hold its “144th Grand Conclave” on Friday, June 26, 2009 with the Grand Session Banquet in the evening, and the Grand Chapter will conduct its Grand Convocation on Saturday, June 27, 2009.

The Grand Commandery schedule of activities is listed below:

Thursday
12:00 Past Grand Commander’s Luncheon.
9:00 P.M. Order of Lotus

Friday

8:00 AM	Registration
8:30 AM - 12:00	Grand Commandery Conclave
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:45	Grand Officer Installation and Awards
3:00 PM - 4:30	Past Commander’s Association
4:45 PM - 6:15	Knight Crusaders of the Cross
6:30 PM	Social, Banquet, Special Awards.

S. K. Bruce V. Brendal, R.E.G.C., invites all the sir knights and their ladies to join and participate with them in the high light of the Commandery year.

PATRIOTISM - WHAT DOES IT MEAN!

What does “Patriotism Mean?” There are many meanings. If one were to “Google” it you will find the following among many other meanings.

Easier - Patriotism is a love of and loyalty to one’s country. A patriot is someone who loves, supports, and is prepared to serve their country.

Harder - The word patriotism comes from the Latin word pater meaning father, from the old German word patris, or fatherland and from the Greek word meaning fatherland.

For most of history, love of fatherland or homeland was an attachment to the physical features of the land. But that notion changed in the eighteenth century when the ideals of democracy, socialism, and communism strongly emerged into political thought. Patriotism was still a love of one’s country that included connections to the land and people, but then also included the customs and traditions, pride in its history, and devotion to its welfare.

Today most people agree that patriotism also involves service to their country, but many disagree on how to best perform such service. Some believe that the national government speaks for a country; therefore, all its citizens should actively support government policies and actions. Others argue that a true patriot speaks out when convinced that their country is following an unwise or unjust action.

In our “Ode to the Flag,” we say: “Sir Knights, justly we honor this flag, symbol of the Government that protects our noble heritage, a heritage preserved by the precious sacrifices and true devotion of a united people; a heritage which under the gracious favor of our Heavenly Father, we fervently pray may be transmitted in full measure to our posterity; It’s colors like those of our Grand Standard reminds us of purity and honor, justice and sacrifice, the finest fruits of Christian Civilization.

Today as Knights Templar our belief in our fraternity, our religion, and our country show our true patriotism to ones self.

One more quote, this from Mark Twain. It is one of many on the subject of patriotism: “In the beginning of a change the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated, and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.”

S. K. Charles A. Munson, G.S.W.

CURRENT EVENT

MAY

3 Grand Commandery Officer Meeting, Austin - 12:00.
17 Ascension Day hosted by Zion Comm. No. 2, Mpls. Scottish Rite
Dinner - 4:30 P.M., Play - 6:00 P.M. The Gospel According to Saint Mark”
21 Ivanhoe Comm. No. 31, Inspection. Dinner - 6:00 P.M.. Inspection to follow.

JUNE

4-6 Grand Commandery of Iowa, Cedar Rapids Marriott, Cedar Rapids
17-20 Wisconsin York Rite, Green Bay
25-27 Minnesota York Rite, Willmar

EVERY CHRISTIAN MASON SHOULD BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR