



THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OBSERVANCE

OF

EASTERTIDE

Submitted to the
Grand Commandery of the Philippines

ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

March 2024



EASTER OBSERVANCE

ON EASTER SUNRISE OR EASTER DAY

FOR THE COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

INSTRUCTIONS

The following ceremony for the Knights Templar Easter Sunrise Observance is based in part on the Manual of Public Ceremonies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, along with other sources, and adapted for Philippine-based Commanderies. The ceremony may be used for both face-to-face and virtual/online gatherings. Floor arrangement may vary depending on venue and composition of attendees (whether private or public). The typical Cross Table or Jerusalem Cross may be used if done in the form of an Asylum (tyled), in which case the attendees assemble in the Asylum prior to the service and then have the Sir Knights march in to appropriate music. Sir Knights in attendance should be in uniform, seated by default, and rise when ordered by the Commander. If conducted online, Sir Knights remain seated throughout the entire ceremony, and should merely Un-Cover when ordered by the Commander. Red wine and drinking glasses are provided per participant if Libations are performed. The ceremony may appropriately be held anytime during or after Easter Day. Note that this ceremony is merely a guide, and Commanderies are free to customize it accordingly.

START OF CEREMONY

(Optional Music: Play or sing “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” or something similar before starting.)

Commander: * Welcome, Sir Knights (and guests), to the annual service of the Knights Templar Eastertide, commemorating the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is one of the three required services and fundamental traditions of Masonic Templary, the other two being Ascensiontide and Christmastide.

Why is the commemoration of Easter important to us Masonic Knights Templar? Since we allegorically derive our principal identification to the original Knights Templar of Crusader and Medieval times, we likewise take into heart their Christian ideals and traditions – one, of course, was their passionate celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – the very foundation of the Christian faith itself.

Medieval Easter was also important to early Christian Europe, as it was the season that coincided with the Vernal Equinox and the rebirth of the countryside. In feudal rural societies, that were never far from starvation, the first sign of crops and vegetation returning after the winter was a good cause for celebration.

Today, Easter is still the most important holiday for Christians of whatever religious sect or denomination. We Masonic Knights Templar also consider it the same way, which is why our traditional observance of Easter somehow resembles those of the Churches. We would like to reiterate that though there may be similarities with the way we celebrate Easter, ours was never meant to be a substitute for the religious observances conducted by our respective denominations. Sometimes we invite members of clergy to deliver Talks before our Masonic gatherings, that we may all together partake in the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. Still, please be reminded that when it comes to the prescribed commemoration of Easter by our respective denominations, our place, even as Christian Knights, is in the fellowship of our home congregations and Churches, and not at Masonic gatherings which are but supplementary observances and not substitutes. In doing this, we also help to educate our non-Masonic friends that Freemasons, and Knights Templar especially, are not working against the Church and her teachings, but actually support her with heart, mind, and soul.

That having said, we now begin our Masonic Templar observance of Eastertide.

(Optional, if the ME Grand Master is present or has message prepared to be read) :

Commander: Let us listen to the Easter message of our Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, Sir Knight _____ [David J. Kussman, GCT].

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online. All sit before GM speaks.)

Grand Commander's Easter Message 2024

To the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

For the many years that I have read and studied the Holy Bible, especially during the Easter season, one aspect of this blessed event has been my appreciation of the divine relationship that came to exist between Jesus and the Centurion.

There was only one person who was constantly with Jesus in the last sixteen or so hours of His life. It was not His mother, Mary, as much as she wanted to be. It was not many of His disciples. Remember: most of them had run away. A few followed at a distance. Only one made it to the cross.

The person close to Jesus from His arrest until His burial was someone who did not choose to be there. He was there because it was his duty, his job, his assignment. That person was the Roman centurion. We find the story in Mark 15.

The centurion began by following orders – fulfilling his job requirements without the remotest idea that something amazing was about to happen. But while doing a task that was tedious and unpleasant, the centurion received a revelation from God and was given an opportunity to testify about Jesus.

So, we read how the centurion arrested Jesus, conducted the flogging at the trial and watched as his soldiers made fun of Jesus. After Jesus was securely nailed to the cross, the centurion may have relaxed from his duties as he waited for Jesus to die.

But then he heard Jesus call out for something to drink, heard Him talk to one of the thieves about Paradise, and heard Jesus call out to God, something about forsaking Him.

He also noticed that Jesus did not behave like most dying men. He did not curse the people who mocked nor accuse the people who put Him there. Instead, He prayed for those who condemned Him, He offered forgiveness to the thief and the ones who were killing Him, and at the end, Jesus turned his spirit over to God and proclaimed with a loud shout, "It is finished!"

About noon, when the darkness came, the centurion heard Jesus' words, saw the darkness, felt the earthquake, and knew this was not an ordinary assignment. This was not the way an execution was supposed to go.

Jean Rousseau said, "Jesus died like a God." This must have been what the centurion was thinking as he stood at the foot of the cross. Never had he seen a person die like Jesus.

Of course he had not, for there had never been anything like it before. The moment He died, Jesus claimed salvation and eternal life for humanity. He achieved victory over sin, death, and hell. He won back for humanity what we had lost in the Garden of Eden when our ancestors allowed sin to infect their lives, a sin that stains our lives, too.

Now Jesus, lifted by the cross, broke the power of sin. So, he declared, "It is finished!" And the Roman centurion responded, "Truly this man was the son of God!"

The people had asked a question, "Are you who you say you are?" And the soldier had answered, "Yes, He is!"

I like to think that the centurion directed his testimony to no one in particular, but to anyone who happened to be listening. Our testimony of who Jesus is, of what He has done in us and for us, should be shared with anyone at the right time. There should be a constant desire and urge to tell our story in hope that someone will find Jesus.

How faithful are we to testify to the presence of Jesus in our lives? How often do we take the right opportunities to tell the story of our transformation? The Psalmist says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so." If God has forgiven our sins, changed our lives and put us on the right path, we should have so much joy that we want to tell as many people as we can, as often as possible!

It has been said that testifying and witnessing is "just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." If that is so, each of us is responsible to share the knowledge of the good news.

Often, we try to make witnessing more complicated than it is. But it is simply one person telling another the story of the cross. One person telling another, "Jesus is truly the Son of God. He forgives sins and changes lives."

My beloved knights, Jesus changed mine and will change yours. Follow Him.

Our journey continues...

*David J. Kussman, GCT
Grand Master*

Commander: (When GM is done, the Commander thanks the GM and proceeds.) Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.) You have just heard the Easter message of our Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

(Optional, if the RE Grand Commander is present or has message prepared to be read) :

Commander: Let us listen to the Easter message of our Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippines, Sir Knight _____ [Ruel L Ditan, KCT].

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online. All sit before GC speaks.)

Grand Commander's Easter Message 2024

My Fraternal Greetings to All the Sir Knights in this Grand Jurisdiction and Other Grand Jurisdictions throughout the World.

In commemorating the Eastertide, it is but fitting to assess ourselves and likewise take into heart the Christian ideals and traditions. Primarily, it is the passionate celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the very foundation of the Christian faith itself.

Easter is still the most important holiday for Christians of whatever religious sect or denomination. We Masonic Knights Templar also consider it the same way, which is why our traditional observance of Easter somehow resembles those of the Churches.

Today, we are joined together in the spirit of victory through the Resurrection of Christ. The glory of Easter gives us all a profound message of hope in the midst of suffering and an assurance of triumph over adversity. We hope that Easter would guide Filipinos in pursuit of "shared aspirations" for a better and safer future for all.

I trust that the promise of salvation will inspire us to look ahead for new beginnings and move forward with stronger faith and compassion for others.

In behalf of the Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar of the Philippines, I wish you all Sir Knights and your families a happy Easter...

Ruel L. Ditan

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Commander: (When GC is done, the Commander thanks the GC and proceeds.) Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.) You have just heard the Easter message of our Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippines.

Commander: Let us now proceed with our commemoration. Excellent Prelate, please commence our Eastertide Observance.

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.)

Prelate: The Lord is in His Holy temple: Let all the earth keep silence before Him. (Hab. 2:20) I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord. (Psalms 122:1) Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. (Psalms 19:14, modified) The hour cometh, and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. (John 4:23)

(All sit except Knights at Table.)

Prelate: What doth the Lord require of thee?

Sir Knights: To do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Prelate: Oh God, Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee.

Sir Knights: My soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.

Prelate: My soul followeth hard after Thee.

Sir Knights: Thy right hand upholdeth me.

Prelate: Hear my prayer, Oh God.

Sir Knights: Attend unto my cry.

Prelate: God be merciful unto us, and bless us.

Sir Knights: And cause His face to shine upon us.

Prelate: Not unto us, not unto us, Oh Lord.

Sir Knights: But unto Thy great Name be all the glory.

Prelate: Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne.

Sir Knights: And unto the Land be forever.

(All stand; dispensed if online.)

Commander: Sir Knights, Un-Cover. (Done.)

INVOCATION

Prelate: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Prelate: Let us bow our heads in prayer before our Father in Heaven.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and show us the light of Your countenance, as we gather here to commemorate the Resurrection of Your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Be merciful unto us during these times. "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen."

All: Amen.

Commander: Sir Knights, Re-Cover. (Done.)

(All sit.)

READINGS AND LESSONS

Prelate: First Lesson – A reading from Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43:

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Prelate: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prelate: Responsorial Psalm (Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-24). Let your response be: *“Alleluia. Alleluia.”* Please repeat.

All: Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prelate: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.” Response.

All: Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prelate: The right hand of the Lord has struck with power; the right hand of the Lord is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. Response.

All: Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prelate: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. Response.

All: Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prelate: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Response.

All: Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prelate: Second Lesson – A reading from 1 Corinthians 5: 6b-8:

Know you not that a little leaven corrupteth the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new paste, as you are unleavened. For Christ our pasch is sacrificed. Therefore let us feast, not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Prelate: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(All stand; dispensed if online.)

Commander: The Gospel for Easter Sunday (John 20:1-9):

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Commander: The Gospel of our Lord!

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

(All sit.)

(Optional, if a guest speaker or a Sir Knight so assigned would deliver a Talk.) :

Commander: Sir Knights and guests, may we introduce to you our speaker for today, _____, to inspire and enlighten us today on this most joyous occasion in all Christendom. (When Talk is done, the Commander gives his thanks to the speaker.)

Commander: Let us proceed to offer the Prayers of the People. Excellent Prelate, please proceed.

(All stand; dispensed if online.)

Commander: Sir Knights, Un-Cover. (Done.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prelate: Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of this Commandery, the world, and all the people everywhere. (Brief silence.) Let your response be: “*Lord, hear our prayer.*” Please repeat.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Commander: Oh Lord Jesus, risen gloriously from the dead, you have snatched us from the snares of the evil one: Alleluia! In you, righteousness and peace kiss one another: Alleluia! In you, all God’s promises have their answers: Alleluia! In you, we shall not die but live, and declare the glory of the Lord: Alleluia! Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Generalissimo: Fill this Commandery with the splendor of your life, light, and love. May its words and deeds proclaim: “*Alleluia, Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!*” Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Captain General: Impart your deathless love to all Christian Knights Templar who suffer persecution and sickness even on this holy day. Grant them the joy of your saving help. Purge the leaven of evil from the hearts of their tormentors and their disease. Hasten the day when together they kneel before you in adoration. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Senior Warden: Crown this Order of the Temple and all who gather here with us with unfading joy, unfailing kindness, undaunted hope, and unceasing praise. Let everyone we meet see your goodness revealed in our words and deeds – we, your faithful soldiers and servants. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Junior Warden: Graciously bless the guests and visitors among us here. Kindle the hearts of those who do not yet believe that you have indeed conquered sin and death. Grant them faith to know that you live to bestow health and life upon them forever. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Treasurer: Grant peace among all nations. Impart wisdom, integrity, and holy fear to our leaders. Bestow joy, hope, and healing upon all people, especially those afflicted by human malice, natural catastrophe, and deadly epidemics. Bring us into right relationship with you and each other forever. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Recorder: Be the strong and righteous arm of all who stand in harm's way on behalf of others. Make them brave, wise and good. Shield them from the forces of evil. Heal them when they fall. Fill their loved ones with confidence in your triumph over every foe. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Standard Bearer: We plead on behalf of all who are sick, wounded, abused, imprisoned, despairing, grieving or dying, and for all who crave your mercy, including those whom we name now aloud or in our hearts and minds. Impart your life and love to them, so they may sing the Psalmist's words, *"I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord!"* Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Sword Bearer: Most holy and gracious Savior, thank you for redeeming all who have fallen asleep in your arms. In your mercy, wipe away the tears of all whose grief runs deep. Feed us all with a foretaste of your Kingdom feast. Take away the shroud of sin, suffering and sorrow that troubles this broken world. Give us faith to serve one another in humble gratitude for your goodness. Bring us to stand with all the redeemed and sing, *"Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever! Amen! This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"* Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Response.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Warder: Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, Lord Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

All: Amen.

Commander: Sir Knights, Re-Cover. (Done.)

(All sit.)

(Optional Music: Play or sing *"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"* or something similar. Done.)

CLOSING

(Commander delivers his parting message. Other high-ranking officers are given the chance to address the attendees.)

Commander: As we conclude our Eastertide Observance in this Asylum, let us receive the benediction of our Excellent Prelate.

Prelate: Alleluia! Alleluia! Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and has redeemed us to God by his blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. May the blessings of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and keep you. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

All: Amen.

Commander: Sir Knights and guests, our Eastertide Observance is concluded. *

(Optional Music: Play or sing “*Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah*” or something similar.)

OPTIONAL CEREMONY IF OBSERVANCE IS PERFORMED AT VESPER HOUR: CEREMONY OF LIBATIONS

Commander: Sir Knights, we now assemble together during this, our annual Eastertide Observance, to pay homage to *Emmanuel*, and once again re-live the story of his Resurrection. I encourage each of you to remember and re-dedicate yourselves to your vows of Christian Knighthood and to the love that manifests itself in the Word of God. Let us give honor to our leaders and fellow Sir Knights, wishing them and their loved ones good health. Let us therefore proceed to our series of Libations in their honor. Let every Knight be furnished with a glass of wine. (Done.)

Order of Libations:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. To the ME Grand Master KT | - proposed by the Commander |
| 2. To the RE Grand Commander | - proposed by the Generalissimo |
| 3. To the Masonic Order of the Temple | - proposed by the Captain General |
| 4. To the MW Grand Master F&AM | - proposed by the Senior Warden |
| 5. To the memory of King Solomon | - proposed by the Junior Warden |
| 6. To the memory of Simon of Cyrene | - proposed by the Treasurer |
| 7. To all Freemasons | - proposed by the Recorder |

1st Libation: To the Most Eminent Grand Master (proposed by the Commander)

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.)

Commander: Allow allow me to commence our first Libation. Charge your glasses and partake. Here is to Sir Knight _____, [David J. Kussman, GCT] Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA. May Masonic Templary flourish under his leadership, and may God guide his decisions towards the collective good of the Order. (Hold glass higher.) Sir Knights, participate: To the Most Eminent Grand Master!

All: To the Most Eminent Grand Master! (All drink, then sit.)

(Optional, if the ME Grand Master is present) :

Commander: May we request a short response from our Most Eminent Grand Master?
(Commander thanks the GM after his speech.)

(Pause for intermission.)

2nd Libation: To the Right Eminent Grand Commander (proposed by the Generalissimo)

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.)

Generalissimo: Sir Knights, charge your glasses and partake in our second Libation. The home of Masonic Templarism in our country is the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the

Philippines, chartered by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA on December 31, 1963. It is currently headed by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight _____ [Ruel L Ditan, KCT]. I therefore would like to propose a Toast. Here's to our Right Eminent Grand Commander. May his able leadership be inherited by his future successors, and may he receive all the blessings in heaven for steering our Order in the true path of Chivalry and Knighthood. (Hold glass higher.) Sir Knights, participate: To the Right Eminent Grand Commander!

All: To the Right Eminent Grand Commander! (All drink, then sit.)

(Optional, if the RE Grand Commander is present) :

Commander: May we request a short response from our Right Eminent Grand Commander?
(Commander thanks the GC after his speech.)

(Pause for intermission.)

3rd Libation: To the Masonic Order of the Temple (proposed by the Captain General)

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.)

Captain General: Sir Knights, charge your glasses and partake in our third Libation. As Masonic Knights Templar, we have vowed ourselves as Soldiers of Christ, to defend the Christian faith, and to honor Him whose Day of Resurrection we commemorate this afternoon/evening. Let us honor our valiant and magnanimous Order and all our brethren Knights who have shed their blood in defense of liberty and Christianity. May they too experience the Resurrection of our Lord and have eternal life with him and our Father in Heaven, thus exalting our Order as true Knights of Christ. (Hold glass higher.) Sir Knights, participate: To the Masonic Order of the Temple! Au Beauséant!

All: To the Masonic Order of the Temple! Au Beauséant! (All drink, then sit.)

(Pause for intermission.)

4th Libation: To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons and the Grand Lodge
(proposed by the Senior Warden)

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.)

Senior Warden: Sir Knights, charge your glasses and partake in our Libation to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. It is important for us to never forget that even though we are Knights Templar, we are, first and foremost, Master Masons of the Ancient Craft. It is for this reason that we give thanks and honor to the cradle whence we all came – the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, headed by Most Worshipful _____ [Don T. Tamas-Uypitching]. May he be the exemplar that all Master Masons strive to emulate, and may the Grand Architect of the Universe lend him the wisdom of King Solomon himself. (Hold glass higher.) Sir Knights, participate: To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Philippines!

All: To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Philippines! (Do not drink yet. Continue next.)

Senior Warden: To the Grand Lodge of the Philippines! O' hail!

All: To the Grand Lodge of the Philippines! O' hail! (All drink, then sit.)

(Optional, if the MW Grand Master is present):

Commander: May we request a response and speech from our Most Worshipful Grand Master?
(Commander thanks the GM after his speech.)

(Pause for intermission.)

5th Libation: To the memory of King Solomon (proposed by the Junior Warden)

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.)

Junior Warden: Sir Knights, charge your glasses and partake in our Libation to the memory of King Solomon. In all of history, there are two major organizations that derive their principal identification to the Temple of King Solomon – the Freemasons and the Knights Templar. We, therefore, being both Freemasons and Knights Templar, pay tribute to him whom we owe the existence of our Order

and from whose Temple we derived our very name “*Order of Temple of Solomon.*” Here’s to the memory of the third and Great King of Israel, whose wisdom and leadership enabled him to accomplish one of the greatest architectural feats of the Ancient world – the building of the First Temple dedicated to Almighty God – a Temple from whose ruins the original Knights Templar later took shelter and derived the very name of their Order. (Hold glass higher.) Sir Knights, participate: To the memory of King Solomon!

All: To the memory of King Solomon! (All drink, then sit.)

(Pause for intermission.)

6th Libation: To the memory of Simon of Cyrene (proposed by the Treasurer)

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.)

Treasurer: Sir Knights, charge your glasses and partake in our Libation to the memory of Simon of Cyrene. Let us pay due homage to him who helped our Lord Jesus Christ carry his Cross on the way to Golgotha. He was the first to bear the Cross of the Lord – an act we all should emulate – the proverbial “*carrying of the Cross*” which symbolizes the hardships we all must bear in order to be worthy of “*wearing the Crown.*” We, Knights Templar, know that Masonic leadership would only come upon us after passing the rough and rugged road. Here’s to memory of Simon of Cyrene, who helped bear the Cross which would eventually become the primary symbol of our Order. (Hold glass higher.) Sir Knights, participate: To the memory of Simon of Cyrene!

All: To the memory of Simon of Cyrene! (All drink, then sit.)

(Pause for intermission.)

7th Libation: To all Freemasons (proposed by the Recorder)

Commander: Sir Knights, Attention! (All stand; dispensed if online.)

Recorder: Sir Knights, charge your glasses and partake in our last Libation. Here’s to all Freemasons wherever dispersed, especially those who are absent here today – those who may still be in the

frontlines fighting the pandemic; those who are poor and distressed; and those who are either sick or have perished. Please raise your glasses, as we enjoin all our brethren in the country and the rest of the world – Knights and Masons all – united by a common Toast. (Hold glass higher.) Sir Knights, participate: To all Freemasons!

All: To all Freemasons! (All drink, then sit.)

Commander: Sir Knights and guests, thank you for participating in our Knights Templar Observance today. Happy Easter to everyone. *

- End of ceremony. Fellowship and Harmony ensues. –