

**KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**  
Service for  
**CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE**

*(The Knights Templar Christmas Observance lends itself to many variations. If the observance is held in the Asylum it might be suggested that guests assemble in the Asylum prior to the service and then have the Sir Knights march in to appropriate music. A very effective procedure is to place the Triangle with candles, goblets and other items in the center and have the twelve Sir Knights who would normally be there remain while the other Knights seat themselves with the guests. Glasses or Goblets should be provided for all Sir Knights. Paper cups may be provided to all visitors present so that they also might participate in the Toasts.)*

**PROCESSIONAL OR OTHER BACKGROUND MUSIC AS DESIRED**

*(All present rise and sing.)*

**HARK, THE HERALD!**

Hark! the herald angels sing!  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.

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!

Hail, the holy Prince of peace!  
Hail, the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings!

*(Other appropriate music may be used.)*

*(All be seated.)*

**EMINENT COMMANDER** – Excellent Prelate, please read the old old story.

Isaiah XI: 1-5

**PRELATE** – 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 of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of 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 then 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 Judea, 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 first-born 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. \* \* \* 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 voices Present.)*

#### SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is dark save the light  
Yonder, where they sweet vigils keep,  
O'er the Babe who in silent sleep  
Rests in heavenly peace,  
Rests in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Peaceful night!  
Darkness flies, all is light;  
Shepherds hear the angels sing,  
"Alleluia! hail the King!  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born."

Silent night! Holy night!  
Guiding Star, lend thy light!  
See the eastern wise men bring  
Gifts and homage to our King!  
Christ the Saviour is born  
Jesus the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Holiest night!  
Wondrous Star, lend thy light!  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King!  
Christ the Saviour is born  
Jesus the Saviour is born!

AMEN

EMINENT COMMANDER – Sir Knights, on this glorious day we commemorate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, Emmanuel, author of our salvation, and the Great Captain under whose Banner we have all 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 heavenly grace. Excellent Prelate, lead our devotions.

*(Sir Knights uncover on order, Kneel on the left knee and bow heads. Vary if service is in a Church Sanctuary.)*

#### PRAYER

PRELATE – Almighty and most merciful Father, remember us with grace, 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, though Jesus Christ, our Lord.

SIR KNIGHTS – Amen!

*(It is effective for Knights to give these amens.)*

PRELATE – Father in heaven, command thy blessings 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.

SIR KNIGHTS — Amen!

PRELATE — 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.

SIR KNIGHTS — Amen!

PRELATE — 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.

SIR KNIGHTS — Amen!

*(Sir Knights arise, recover and are seated.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — Let the chosen Twelve form around the Triangle.

*(Twelve Sir Knights form around the Triangle.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — Let the libations be poured into the goblets on the Triangle and the Pedestal. *(Done.)*

Let every Knight be furnished with a prepared goblet. *(Done.)*

#### TOAST TO THE GRAND MASTER

EMINENT COMMANDER — Sir Knights, *arise!* Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, read the sentiment.

SIR KNIGHT — *(Reads sentiment as supplied to Commanderies.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — To our Grand Master! Partake.

SIR KNIGHTS — *(Repeat)* To our Grand Master. *(And partake.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, read the Grand Master's response.

SIR KNIGHT — *(Reads the response.)*

#### TOAST TO THE GRAND COMMANDER

EMINENT COMMANDER — Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, read the sentiment of the Grand Commander.

SIR KNIGHT — *(Reads sentiment.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — To the Grand Commander, Knights Templar of \_\_\_\_\_ . Partake.

SIR KNIGHTS — *(Repeat.)* To the Grand Commander, Knights Templar of \_\_\_\_\_ . *(And partake.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, read the Grand Commander's response.

SIR KNIGHT — *(Reads the response.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — To all Knights Templar, wherever dispersed.

SIR KNIGHTS — To all Knights Templar, wherever dispersed. Partake.

EMINENT COMMANDER — To all Knights Templar who have shed their blood in defense of Liberty and Christianity.

SIR KNIGHTS — *(Repeat, then bow their heads in silence, no drinking.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — To the Grand Master of Masons of \_\_\_\_\_.

SIR KNIGHTS — *(Repeat and partake.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — Let us recall the hallowed memories of the Fratres of our own jurisdiction who have joined the silent majority.

*(The Twelve Knights will place their goblets on the Triangle.)*

EMINENT COMMANDER — In memory of the dead of this jurisdiction during this year of our Lord.

*(The Twelve Knights will kneel on the left knee, all other Knights will bow their heads, while, in soft tones, all assembled will sing.)*

Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee!  
E'en though it be a cross  
That raiseth me;  
Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer, My God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee!

EMINENT COMMANDER — Sir Knights, arise, we have been refreshed by these hallowed memories; now let us receive the benediction of our Excellent Prelate.

PRELATE — 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.

*(As Sir Knights mingle and depart Organ music — "Joy To The World.")*