



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 and 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 angles 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!

(All are seated)

EMINENT COMMANDER: Excellent Prelate, please read the old, old story.

PRELATE: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 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 his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips she shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. Isaiah 11: 1-5

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who 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 among those with whom he is pleased!” Luke 2:1-14

(All sing)

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, and all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

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)

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL SIR KNIGHTS: Amen!

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 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 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.

ALL 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.

ALL 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 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: (*Repeating*) To our Grand Master (*Partake*)

EMINENT COMMANDER: Sir Knight _____ , read the Grand Master's Response.

SIR KNIGHT: (*Reads response*)

TOAST TO 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 Mississippi. Partake.

SIR KNIGHTS: (*Repeating*) To our Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Mississippi. (*Partake*)

EMINENT COMMANDER: Sir Knight _____ , read the Grand Commander's response.

SIR KNIGHT: (*Reads response*)

EMINENT COMMANDER: To all Knights Templar wheresoever dispersed. Partake.

SIR KNIGHTS: (*Repeating*) To all Knights Templar wheresoever dispersed. (*Partake*)

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

SIR KNIGHTS: *(Repeating)* To all Knights Templar who have shed their blood in defense of Liberty and Christianity. *(Then bow their heads in silence, no drinking)*

EMINENT COMMANDER: To the Grand Master of Masons of Mississippi.

SIR KNIGHTS: *(Repeating)* To the Grand Master of Masons of Mississippi. *(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 ones, all assembled will sing)

Near, 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.