

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas

Office of the Grand Commander

Port Lavaca, Texas

General Order No. 2 Series 2014-2015

Subject: Ascension Day Obligatory Message

To: The Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Officers and Members of the
Constituent Commanderies of Texas

Ascension Day Thursday May 29 2014

The Feast of the Ascension is always celebrated on the 40th day of Easter and dates back to at least the later 4th century; it is always celebrated on Thursday. This year's feast falls on May 29. As Christian Knights we celebrate it as one of the major parts in the life of our Savior Jesus Christ as witnessed by the Apostles in New Testament scripture.

After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days speaking to them about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. *"This" he said, "Is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."* So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord", is this the time when you will restore the Kingdom to Israel?" He replied, *"It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive the power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took out of their site. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Acts 1: 2-11 NRSV

As Christian Knights, this is some of the most profound testimony of our faith; for we are not only given further proof of the resurrection of our Lord but our faith is also strengthened by the promised coming of the Holy Spirit and the spread of our Lord's teachings "to the ends of the earth." The ascension of our Lord assures us the he is a mediator for us as he sits at the right

hand of God. "God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, ad above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come."
Ephesians 1: 17 NRSV

The ascension of our Lord is the most joyful part of our Knighthood it is part of the theological creed that makes us Christians and strengthens us as Knights and gentlemen, for if we practice the virtues our Lord and Savior we will not only strengthen our faith but those around us. What better way to celebrate the ascension of our Lord that to emulate his teachings this day and all the days of our lives as Knights Templar.

This message was prepared by the Eminent Grand Prelate, Sir Knight Joseph Avalos.

Let this General Order be read at the first conclave following its receipt.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Robert M Loflin

Robert M. Loflin

Grand Commander

Attest:

Jerry N Kirby

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Grand Recorder