



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF INDIANA

Bulletin No. 16 Sparks

March 30, 2026

Grand Prelate's Easter Message

The Four Commands of Resurrection Sunday

The message of Good Friday is one of profound sacrifice—the death of Christ for our sins. As the Apostle Paul writes, *"For He hath made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"* (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). But while Good Friday marks the payment of the debt, Resurrection Sunday marks the victory of the Provider.

The historical context of that first Easter morning was shrouded in perceived defeat. Jesus had been betrayed, forsaken, denied, and condemned. He was crucified at Calvary and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Yet, when the women arrived at the tomb on the third day, the earth shook, and an angel descended to roll back the stone (**Matthew 28:2-4**).

In **Matthew 28:5-7**, the angel delivers a message that can be summarized by four powerful imperatives. These are the four commands of Resurrection Sunday.

I. The Command to Come

The angel's first word to the women was an invitation: **"Come."** This is the heartbeat of the Gospel. From the moment humanity fell in the Garden of Eden, God has been reaching out. He promised a Messiah in **Genesis 3:15**, provided an Ark for Noah, and called Israel out of bondage.

Today, the Risen Christ extends that same invitation. Whether through the prophetic call of **Isaiah 55:1** ("Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters") or the final appeal in **Revelation 22:17**, the message remains: *Come*. Jesus specifically calls to those burdened by the "awfulness of sin" or the "labor of trying to earn Heaven," saying, *"Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (**Matthew 11:28-30**). We come to a Savior who is not in a grave, but is living, offering peace that the world cannot give (**John 14:27**).

II. The Command to See

The second command is to **"See."** God does not ask for a blind faith, but a faith grounded in the reality of the empty tomb. The angel invited the women to see the place where the Lord lay.

This "seeing" leads to a confession of the heart. As Peter preached in **Acts 2:22-24**, Jesus was delivered by the providence of God, but God raised Him up because it was "not possible that He should be held" by death. To see the Resurrection is to acknowledge Christ's Lordship. According to **Romans 10:9-10**, salvation hinges on this: believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and confessing Him as Lord.

III. The Command to Go

Jesus never intended for His followers to spend their lives staring into an empty tomb. Once we have seen and believed, we are commanded to **"Go."** This movement is multifaceted:

- **Go into Growth:** We are to grow in grace and knowledge (**2 Peter 3:18**).
- **Go into Prayer:** Approaching the Father in Jesus' name (**John 14:13-14**).
- **Go into Fellowship:** Not forsaking the assembly of believers (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).
- **Go into the World:** Carrying the light into the darkness (**Acts 1:8**).

We go because Christ lives through us (**Galatians 2:20**); we are the "feet" of the Risen Lord in a broken world.

IV. The Command to Tell

Finally, the message must be vocalized: **"Tell."** The women were instructed to tell the disciples, and we are instructed to tell the nations.

In **Psalm 107:2**, the Psalmist writes, *"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so."* This is reinforced by the Great Commission in **Matthew 28:19-20** and **Mark 16:15**, where we are charged to preach the Gospel to every creature. We must always be ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within us (**1 Peter 3:15**).

The Bottom Line: The message of Resurrection Sunday is simple yet life-altering: **Come and See; Go and Tell.**

The Power of the ABC's

I would like to end with a very easy way to share the gospel with the with those individuals God has placed in your life:

- **Admit:** This is twofold as you must first understand you have broken God's law and second repent for the things you know you have done wrong. God provided his standard with the 10 commandments. Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever stolen anything, big or small? Have you ever been so mad at someone as to hate them? Have you lusted after the opposite sex? If you were to answer "yes" to each of these, then by your own admission you are a lying, thieving, murderous, adulterer.

Here's the kicker, Romans 6:23 teaches us that the wage of sin is death. The word in the Greek is in the singular form, meaning it only takes breaking God's law one time for us to earn death. So, we must start by realizing we have broken God's law and then repent of the ways you have broken those laws. Repentance is best understood as the military about face. You are walking toward the world, and you turn 180 degrees to begin walking toward God.

- **Believe:** The famous passage of John 3:16-17 says, *"¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved (KJV)."* You must believe Jesus died for you and every law of God you broke and He nailed these things to the cross according to Colossians 2:14, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God in heaven. Note that in verse 17 we were already condemned, dying, and heading toward hell, but Jesus came to take those who were dead in their trespasses and give them the opportunity to have everlasting life!

- **Confess:** James 2:19 teaches us that the devils believe God is one and they are not redeemed. This teaches us there is more to salvation than just believing. Romans 10:9-10 describe the salvation process and how belief and confession work hand in hand. It says, “⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (KJV).” This means you must make Jesus Lord of your life. Just as a knight swears allegiance to a king, so the Knight Templar, indeed everyone who believes, must swear allegiance to the King of Kings, Jesus the Christ.

Fraternally, A Knight in the Service of King Jesus,

John C. Jones II, Grand Prelate

This Bulletin shall be read in all Constituent Commanderies at the first Stated Conclave following its receipt and be made a part of the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal this 30th day of March, A.D. 2026 A.O. 908.

Fraternally Yours in His Name,



Joseph L. Sparks, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander

ATTESTED:



Lawrence J. Williams, KCT, PGC
Grand Recorder

