

2025 Christmas Greetings from the Eminent Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar for the State of Georgia

Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel C. Ricketts and Lady Stephanie, Grand Commandery Officers, and all Knights Templar and their families from the state of Georgia wherever dispersed:

Again and again, they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

(Mark 15:19-20 NIV)

Christmas is one of the most joyous of Christian holidays, a time to remember the birth of Christ our Savior. Christmas is a time to share all of our blessings with one another, and to be surrounded by the people we love. It is a time for giving, and a time for forgiving. Most importantly, it is a reminder of how much God loves us.

We as Christians like to remember the good times in Jesus' life. We love to tell the Nativity story, but we forget that shortly after His birth Christ needed to flee from Herod's army. We tell about His wisdom, His love, and His healing, but we forget about His suffering. We forget the price He paid, for our sins. We forget the lengths that God went to show us His love.

To be honest, thinking about this leaves me dumbfounded, because God knew what would happen to His Son. God had told Isaiah along with many other prophets of the suffering the Savior would endure. God knew that the very creatures He had created, would crucify Him for trying to save us from ourselves. And yet, God lowered Himself in Christ, feeling physical pain and suffering. God lowered Himself and let mere humans beat Him and mock Him. The God who has all the power of the universe, humbled Himself to be lower than the angels, and to die at our sinful, hateful hands.

God knew this would happen ahead of time, and yet He loved us so immensely that He sent His Son, to suffer death, so that we could spend eternity with our Heavenly Father. That is the story of love. That is the story of Christmas.

On this day, remember the price God paid for you, because of how much He loves you. Remember what true love is, and share that love, God's love, with all.

Right Eminent Grand Commander Ricketts, Lady Stephanie, and your family, please accept our humble wishes for continued good health as we offer you this toast:

The light of the Christmas star to you, The warmth of home and hearth to you, The cheer and good will of all the Sir Knights to you, The hope of a childlike heart to you, The joy of a thousand angels to you, The love of the Son and God's peace be with you always!!

Please accept our heartfelt wishes for a happy and joyous Christmas season and a wonderfully blessed New Year!!

Faternally,

Rev. Donald C. Combs
Eminent Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Georgia