

Brethren and Fellow Sir Knights,

While reading the article on SK John P.S. Gobin, who served as the 15th Grand Commander of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the April 2018 issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine I noted with interest that during his tenure (1889-1892) the "...recommended observance of Ascension Day was adopted." (p. 9). I immediately perked up because the Feast of the Ascension is one of my favorite feasts and one that is sadly neglected in most churches today.

Ascension Day, which Western Christians will observe on 10 May this year (those Eastern Orthodox Christians following the Old Kalendar will do so a week later on 17 May), marks the conclusion of the forty days of Easter (hence the difference in dates), following which Our Lord ascended into Heaven as recounted in Acts 1:1-11. It is there that He now sits, enthroned at the right hand of His Father whence he shall, as we confess in the Apostles' Creed, come again to judge the living and the dead. In a time when there are many things going wrong all around us we can take heart – Christ is on His throne and He reigns.

For many years Ascension Day was a big a deal as is Christmas. Why does it get the short shrift now? I suspect that much of it has to do with the fact that it invariably falls on a Thursday, never on a Sunday when people are regularly in church. In the parishes that I have served as Vicar I always made it a point to have a service of Holy Communion on that day and while the services were never attended by large numbers it was good to keep the feast; at present I am serving non-parochially as a chaplain but, Providentially, I will be conducting a chapel service on 10 May and we will observe the Feast of the Ascension.

Christian Knights, whether your church is of a liturgical or not, whether they traditionally note feasts such as Ascension Day or not, know this: Our risen Lord has ascended into Heaven and is on his throne. That fact is something in which we can take great comfort indeed.

Fraternally,

The Rev'd and SK Charles A. Collins, Jr.
Eminent Grand Prelate