



70th Anniversary Ceremony

Mount Moriah Two Bridges Nahe Lodge #823

Commemorative Ceremony

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I. SOLEMN OPENING

WM: “Brethren, we now suspend the ordinary course of our labors to celebrate a unique moment: the 70th anniversary of our Lodge.”

SW: “Worshipful Master, the columns that support our Temple were erected by the founders of our Lodge. They have endured through time, for they were set upon the foundation of Brotherhood.”

JW: “Worshipful Master, just as the sun illumines the horizon at noon, the light of seventy years still shines among us. We prepare to honor it with gratitude and fidelity.”

II. PROCESSION OF THE FOUNDING LIGHTS

Three Brethren enter in procession, each carrying a light. They place their lights beside the Three Great Lights.

WM: “Thus were lit the first lights of our Lodge. They still shine today, guiding our steps.”

SW: “The Light of Faith illumines the West and sustains our journey.”

JW: “The Light of Hope illumines the South and strengthens our hearts.”

III. READING – 70 YEARS OF MASONIC QUEST AND TRANSMISSION

The Secretary reads the commemorative text prepared for the occasion.

Brethren,

Today we gather to celebrate seventy years of light, brotherhood, and enduring commitment.

Seventy years during which, at the heart of Pirmasens and its region, a Masonic flame was kindled, a flame that continues to shine, guiding each Brother along the path of moral, intellectual, and spiritual development.

Today, we honor not only these years, but also the values, teachings, and bonds that have kept this lodge alive and vibrant through generations.

The name of our lodge, Mount Moriah, carries deep significance.

It evokes the mountain where Abraham was called to offer his son, a story of faith, courage, and devotion.

It is a story that resonates with every Mason, reminding us that the path we follow demands reflection, dedication, and ethical action.

From its foundation, Mount Moriah has been a place where men rise, seek the light, and contribute to the greater good, building harmony, understanding, and virtue.

In the post-war years, our lodge was founded to meet a profound need.

English-speaking Masons in the region whether military personnel, expatriates, or local residents needed a home for ritual, for learning, and for brotherhood.

Under the jurisdiction of the American Canadian Grand Lodge, Mount Moriah became a sanctuary, a place where Masonic teachings could flourish freely, a beacon of tradition, continuity, and shared purpose during a time of reconstruction and renewal.

From its earliest days, the lodge fostered strong bonds among its members.

These bonds were forged through ritual rigor, fraternal sharing, and acts of service.

The rituals conducted in English preserved the richness of Masonic heritage and created a sense of belonging and identity.

Within the broader community, the lodge extended a hand in benevolence, bringing light, support, and hope.

These actions reflect the lodge's commitment to the universal principles of brotherhood, compassion, and benevolence.

Over the decades, Mount Moriah has experienced growth, renewal, and transformation.

Through mergers with Two Bridges of Zweibrücken and later the Nahe Temple of Idar-Oberstein, our lodge became what we know today : Mount Moriah – Two Bridges – Nahe No. 823.

These unions were far more than administrative.

They were symbolic. They reflect the union of the pillars Jachin and Boaz : strength and stability, balanced by openness to light and knowledge.

They remind us that a lodge can preserve its identity while embracing growth, diversity, and change.

Throughout these seventy years, the Brethren have worked tirelessly.

They have preserved the ritual, trained new members, and passed on the teachings that form the heart of our fraternity.

Every Brother has woven a thread into the strong fabric of Mount Moriah.

Every act of service, every lesson shared, every ritual observed, has built a legacy of light, wisdom, and fraternity that extends far beyond our lodge walls.

Mount Moriah has also been a place of education and reflection.

It has been a school of morality and ethics, a forum where ideas are shared, tested, and deepened.

Each degree, each symbolic lesson, carries a message for life : to act with integrity, to cultivate knowledge, and to extend compassion to all men.

These lessons are timeless, guiding us not only as Masons but also as members of society, as citizens, and as human beings striving for improvement.

Today, Mount Moriah remains faithful to its founding principles : the pursuit of light, fraternal solidarity, and universal tolerance.

Each meeting, each ritual, and each act of service reaffirms these values.

The light of Mount Moriah continues to guide our steps, inspire our actions, and remind us to pursue knowledge, virtue, and benevolence in all aspects of our lives.

As we celebrate these seventy years, we honor the past and those who built this lodge with dedication, courage, and wisdom.

We recognize the Brethren who laid the foundations.

We honor their commitment, their sacrifices, and the teachings passed down through generations.

And we look forward to the future.

We recommit ourselves to moral perfection.

We pledge to transmit the light to the next generation.

We vow to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and extend the hand of friendship to all who seek truth and virtue.

Every Brother present today contributes to writing a new chapter in the history of Mount Moriah.

A chapter of light, wisdom, solidarity, and fraternity, reaffirming our shared values and strengthening the lodge for decades to come.

Let this celebration inspire us.

Let it remind us of our duty, our mission, and our calling.

Let every meeting, every ritual, and every act of service be a reaffirmation of our commitment to the principles that unite us.

Let us walk together, guided by the enduring light of Mount Moriah, embracing both the wisdom of the past and the promise of the future.

Brethren, may this 70th anniversary be not only a commemoration of the years gone by but also a renewal of our dedication.

May we continue to seek knowledge, cultivate virtue, and nurture brotherhood.

May the flame of Mount Moriah burn ever brighter, illuminating our lives, our lodge, and the world around us.

Together, let us honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward with hope and confidence to the decades yet to come.

Guided by light, sustained by fraternity, and inspired by wisdom, we walk together, as Brethren, as Masons, as keepers of the flame.

Mount Moriah shines.

It has shone for seventy years.
And it will continue to shine, now and forevermore.

SW: “These words are the cornerstones of our spiritual Temple.”

JW: “Their memory remains alive within our columns and within our hearts.”

IV. RITE OF REMEMBRANCE – BRETHREN PASSED TO THE ETERNAL ORIENT

WM: “They labored with zeal. They transmitted with love. Today, their names still resound among us.”

The Secretary strikes seven blows upon the gong, then reads the names of the departed Brethren.

A minute of silence is observed. A candle is lit in the East.

SW: “Their labor was not in vain. Their stones remain within the Invisible Temple.”

JW: “Their memory is a light that shall not be extinguished.”

V. SYMBOLIC TRANSMISSION CEREMONY

Three Brethren are called forward.

- *The WM presents the Gavel.*
- *The SW presents the Chisel.*
- *The JW presents the Square.*

WM: “Youth, maturity, and wisdom are the three pillars that sustain our Lodge. Receive these tools as pledges of continuity.”

SW: “May the labor of the Fellowcraft be strengthened by constant effort and the intelligence of the hand.”

JW: “May the wisdom of the Master enlighten our decisions and guide our steps toward harmony and balance.”

VI. SYMBOLIC READING

Secretary: “Psalm 133 – A Song of Ascents, of David:

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Running down upon the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down on the edge of his garments.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing
Life forevermore.”

SW: “Unity is the cement that binds our stones.”

JW: “Harmony is the music that fills our Temple.”

VII. LIGHTING OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY CANDLE

The WM lights a candle engraved with “70 Years.”

WM: “May this flame bear witness to our fidelity.”

SW: “It illumines our past and recalls the foundations of our Lodge.”

JW: “It heralds the future and guides us toward new decades of Light.”

VIII. THE LODGE'S BOOK OF LIFE

The Secretary inserts a new page into the Book of Life.

WM: “Brethren, you are invited to sign, after this ceremony, this new page that will be preserved within the Book of Life.”

SW: “Each signature is a stone added to the Temple.”

JW: “Each memory is a flame added to the Light.”

IX. CLOSING OF THE CEREMONY

WM: “Brethren, we are the guardians of a flame, of an Invisible Temple.”

SW: “May the strength of past decades sustain our future.”

JW: “May the fraternal joy of this day endure for generations to come.”

Each Brother, one after another, is invited by the Secretary to come forward and sign the page that will be preserved in the Book of Life.

After this solemn moment: Distribution of the 70th Anniversary Commemorative Pin.

The Lodge resumes its regular closing.