

## EASTER SERVICE ON MOUNT ECCLESIA

The Easter Service on Mt. Ecclesia was held as usual at sunrise at the Cross placed in the star of golden flowers, located in the center of the circular lawn in front of the library building. We have never at any time issued special invitations or endeavored to have any particular number present, but it is noteworthy that, as usual at all important events, the number of those present, when multiplied or added, has made the number 9, which is the number of Man and the number of degrees of the lesser mysteries to which the Rosicrucian Fellowship is a preparatory school. On this occasion there were 33 present.

At half past five, Mr. Heindel, as usual at the Easter Service, took his place beside the Cross and addressed those assembled. He said, in part:

“If we were to enter one of the orthodox churches or attend the open air Easter morning services held in so many places all over the country, we should probably be told the story of the resurrection of an individual named Jesus, who died for our sins on Good Friday and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. But while the life story of Jesus, as recorded in the Gospels, is practically true, and while we love and venerate Him for the noble work He has done and is doing for humanity, we look beyond for the significance and esoteric meaning of Easter.

“If this were simply a feast to commemorate the death of an individual, it would, on the face of it, be foolishness to make this a movable feast; we do not fix the death of Lincoln by the Sun, as we know is the case with Easter in relation to the Christ, as commonly supposed; for that event is always determined by the conjunctions of the Sun and Moon in the sign Aries, the ram or lamb. First, the Sun and Moon must come to a conjunction, which is the New Moon; then the Moon must pursue her course half way around the circle of the zodiac until she is at the full; and then the first Sunday following that event is Easter.

“This plainly shows that we are not celebrating the death of an individual, but that this is a solar festival. We do not, however, worship the Sun, Moon, and Stars. To do that would be idolatry. But we know that the Sun is the physical vehicle of the Godhead, as the planets are the vehicles of the Seven Spirits before the Throne. And therefore we realize that the Christ spirit which illuminated the body of Jesus and entered the Earth on Golgotha did not then and there complete the sacrifice once and for all, any more than the Sun, by shining upon the surface of the Earth, can make the plants grow forever and warmth surround the Earth. But each year when the Sun descends towards its Western node, at the Fall equinox, the vitalizing Christ ray enters the surface of the Earth and permeates our globe to the very center, which it reaches at the time when the Sun is at its lowest point of declination and we speak of the Savior being born at Christmas.

“Then, as the Sun begins to ascend towards the vernal equinox, this great vitalizing wave of dynamic force reascends to the periphery of the Earth, fertilizing the millions of seeds slumbering in the soil. It drives the sap up in the trees and causes them to bud, so that the forest becomes a bridal bower for the mating beasts and birds. This cosmic Christ force is liberated from the bondage of the Earth at Easter, when it has spent itself and given its life for the world.

Thus, there is an inbreathing and outbreathing in nature, and the world could not exist without this annual impregnation by the cosmic Christ force, any more than we can exist

without continually breathing the oxygenated air in which we live. And so, as a matter of fact, the Christ does annually give us the bread of life; but not only in the physical sense. There is, in addition, a spiritual outpouring during the winter months, from which we may greatly benefit if we are minded to attune ourselves to its vibrations. That is the true bread of life in the highest sense of the word, and without it our souls must starve; hence our great gratitude to the Christ for his annual sacrifice.”

At that moment the upper edge of the Sun became just visible over the eastern mountains, Mr. Heindel bade those assembled, “Watch it rise,” while giving silent thanks and offering up prayer and praise.

When the Sun had fully risen and the surrounding country, green and gay with a profusion of flowers, lay bathed in the bright sunshine, Mr. Heindel gave those assembled the ancient Easter Greeting, “The Lord is risen,” to which the response is, “Yes, He is risen indeed.”

This concluded the services at the Cross, and the party repaired to the Pro-Ecclesia, where the usual Sunday morning service was held.