

# Temple Endowment of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah) has many temples worldwide. Individual church members, who are worthy, have a temple recommend. This enables them to enter any temple for their own personal endowment or to go through the ceremony in behalf of a deceased individual.

Starting in 1842 church founder Joseph Smith initiated a ritual ceremony termed an "endowment" to a select group known as the Holy Order of the Holy Priesthood. The ceremony included signs, tokens, obligations and penalties that have certain similarities to Freemasonry. The endowment is an initiation into the highest order of the priesthoods of the church. The endowment is performed only in temples.

The majority of Mormon temples have the endowment presented by film and audio recording. The drama as presented is a religious dialogue together with the patron receiving names and signs of the priesthoods (i.e. the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods) with what is termed tokens (or handclasps) for the respective priesthood.

**The endowment ceremony was orally preserved though with modifications through the first thirty years. In 1877 the ceremony was written down. Still, it was not uniformed in the temples. Over the years the ceremony has been shortened and modified. There is no secret as to the content of the endowment ceremony, it is part of public knowledge.**

## Covenant to obey the Law of the Lord

All Patrons – Each of you bring your right arm to the square. You and each of you solemnly covenant and promise before God, angels, and these witnesses at this altar that you will obey the Law of the Lord, and keep his commandments. Each of you will bow your head and say “yes.”

### Covenant to obey the Law of Sacrifice

Explained: we should covenant to sacrifice all that we possess, even our own lives if necessary, in sustaining and defending the Kingdom of God.

All Patrons - Each of you bring your right arm to the square. You and each of you solemnly covenant and promise before God, angels, and these witnesses at this altar that you will observe and keep the Law of Sacrifice, as contained in the Holy Scriptures, as it has been explained to you. Each of you bow your head and say “yes.”

### First Token of the Aaronic Priesthood

Instruction on the Tokens with their accompanying Names and Signs of the Holy Priesthood: They are most sacred, and are guarded by solemn covenants and obligations made in the presence of God, angels and these witnesses to hold them sacred and under no condition will you ever divulge them, except at a certain place in the temple that will be shown you.

Token – Clasp the right hands and place the joint of the thumb directly over the first knuckle of the hand.

Name – The new name received earlier.

Sign – Bring the right arm to the square, the palm of the hand to the front, the fingers close together, and the thumb extended.

All Patrons Covenant – I \_\_\_\_\_ [think of the New Name] covenant before God, angels, and these witnesses, that I will never reveal the First Token of the Aaronic Priesthood, with its accompanying name and sign.

### Covenant to obey the Law of the Gospel

Explained: law of the Gospel which is the higher law taught by Jesus Christ as contained in the Holy Scriptures, to give unto you also a charge to avoid all lightmindedness, loud laughter, evil speaking of the Lord’s anointed, the taking of the name of God in vain, and every other unholy and impure practice.

All Patrons Covenant – Each of you bring your right arm to the square. Each of you covenant and promise before God, angels, and these witnesses, that you will observe

and keep the Law of the Gospel and this charge as it has been explained to you. Each of you bow your head and say “yes.”

### Second Token of the Aaronic Priesthood

Token – Clasp the right hands and place the joint of the thumb between the first and second knuckles of the hand.

Name – The name of this token is your own first given name.

Sign – Bring the right hand in front of you, with the hand in cupping shape, the right arm forming a square, and the left arm being raised to the square.

All Patrons Covenant – I \_\_\_\_\_ [first given name] solemnly covenant before God, angels, and these witnesses, that I will never reveal the Second Token of the Aaronic Priesthood, with its accompanying name and sign.

### Covenant to obey the Law of Chastity

Explained: the women of God’s kingdom and the men of God’s kingdom shall have no sexual relations except with those to whom they are legally and lawfully wedded according to His law.

All Patrons Covenant – Each of you bring your right arm to the square. You and each of you individually covenant and promise before God, angels, and these witnesses, that you will observe and keep the Law of the Chastity, as it has been explained to you. Each of you bow your head and say “yes.”

### First Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood or Sign of the Nail

Token – Bring the right hand vertical, the fingers close together, and the thumb extended, and the person giving the token place the tip of the forefinger of the right hand in the center of the palm, and the thumb opposite on the back of the hand of the one receiving it.

Name – The name of this token is “the Son.”

Sign – Bring the left hand in front of you, with the hand in cupping shape, the left arm forming a square, the right hand is also brought forward, the palm down, the fingers close together with the thumb extended.

All Patrons Covenant – I solemnly covenant before God, angels, and these witnesses, in the name of the Son that I will never reveal the First Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood or sign of the Nail, with its accompanying name and sign.

#### Covenant to obey the Law of Consecration

All Patrons Covenant – Each of you bring your right arm to the square. You and each of you covenant and promise before God, angels, and these witnesses at this altar, that you do accept the Law of Consecration as contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, in that you do consecrate yourselves, your time, talents, and everything with which the Lord has blessed you or with which he may bless you, to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for the building up of the Kingdom of God on the earth and for the establishment of Zion. Each of you bow your head and say “yes.”

#### Second Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood, The Patriarchal Grip, or Sure Sign of the Nail

Token – Clasping the right hands, interlocking the little fingers, and placing the tip of the forefinger upon the center of the wrist.

Name – The name of this token is to be given through the veil.

Sign – raising both hands high above the head and while lowering the hands repeating aloud the words “Oh God, hear the words of my mouth. Oh God, hear the words of my mouth. Oh God, hear the words of my mouth.”

#### Veil of the Temple

The tokens are repeated by all patrons through the veil and they receive the Name of the Second Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood, The Patriarchal Grip, or Sure Sign of the Nail.

Name of the Second Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood, The Patriarchal Grip, or Sure Sign of the Nail – Health in the navel, marrow in the bones, strength in the loins and in the sinews, power in the Priesthood be upon me, and upon my posterity through all generations of time, and throughout all eternity.