

Via Lucis: The Way of Light Stations of the Resurrection



Opening

The Sign of the Cross

“We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.”

— *Romans 6:4-5*

The Way of the Cross leads to the Way of Light. Following his Passion and Death, Jesus descended into hell, smashed its gates, and delivered the souls of the just. He then rose victorious over sin, death, and the devil. Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of forty days, teaching them about the Kingdom of Heaven. At the end of this time, the Risen Lord ascended to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit to empower his Church to preach the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Risen Lord, we walk in the glorious light of your Resurrection with the first members of your Church. May we participate in the coming of your kingdom and share in your life both now and in the world to come.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Ye sons and daughters of the Lord,

The King of glory, the King adored,

This day himself from death restored. Alleluia!



The First Station: Jesus Rises from the Dead

(Genuflecting) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!
Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how Jesus rose from the grave, unseen by any human eye, in the early hours of the first day of the week, the first day of the new creation. As dawn lit the sky and the myrrh bearing women approached Jesus' tomb, the earth shook and an angel descended from heaven to roll back the stone. He announced Christ's Resurrection and sent the women to tell the other disciples. They ran to deliver the message and encountered Jesus himself on the way. The Risen Lord accepted their worship and urged them to announce the good news to his apostles.

Further Reading: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-8

Risen Lord, we do you homage with your rejoicing disciples. May we make haste to announce your Resurrection.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
That Easter morn at break of day
Went holy women on their way
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia!**



The Second Station: The Finding of the Empty Tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how Mary Magdalene, having seen the stone rolled away from the tomb, rushed to tell Peter and John. Fearful that the Lord's body had been stolen, the two apostles ran to the sepulcher. Arriving first, John saw the empty burial clothes but did not enter. When Peter caught up and went into the tomb, he too marveled at the discarded shroud. John, finally entering the Lord's tomb, saw and believed.

Further Reading: John 20:1-10, Luke 24:9-12

**Risen Lord, we believe in your Resurrection with your beloved disciple.
May we have faith even when we do not understand.**

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

And Magdalene and Salome,

And Mary, mother of James that day,

Came to anoint without delay. Alleluia!



The Third Station: Mary Magdalene Meets the Risen Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider the mourning of Mary Magdalene at the tomb. Two angels appeared to her and said, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She replied, “They have taken my Lord.” Turning, she saw Jesus but took him for the gardener. He asked, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She answered, “Tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.” Then, with one word—her name—the Teacher revealed himself to his disciple. But Mary could not hold on to him; the Lord was on his way to the Father, and he sent her to announce his Resurrection to the other disciples.

Further Reading: John 20:11-18, Mark 16:9-11

Risen Lord, we long to embrace you with Mary Magdalene. May we hold you in our hearts as we proclaim your Resurrection.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Of spices pure a precious store

In their pure hands these women bore

To anoint the sacred body o’er. Alleluia!



The Fourth Station: Jesus Appears on the Road to Emmaus

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider the two dejected disciples who were journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus later on the first day of the week. Jesus joined them on the road, but they were prevented from recognizing him. When the Lord asked what they were discussing, the disciples told him about the death of their teacher and how some of the women in their group were now claiming that he was alive once more. Jesus, still unknown to his disciples, then used the law and the prophets to explain that it was necessary for the Savior to suffer before entering into his glory.

Further Reading: Luke 24:13-27

**Risen Lord, we experience confusion with your discouraged disciples.
May we understand how the scriptures and our lives point us to you.**

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

An angel clad in white they see

Who sat and spoke unto the three:

“Your Lord has gone to Galilee.” Alleluia!



The Fifth Station: Jesus Is Known at the Breaking of the Bread

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how the disciples invited their unrecognized Lord to stay with them in Emmaus. At their evening meal, Jesus blessed and broke the bread and gave it to them. Suddenly they knew who he was, but just as suddenly he disappeared from their sight. They rushed back to Jerusalem to share the news with the other disciples. It was beginning to dawn on them that he might be risen indeed!

Further Reading: Luke 24:28-35, Mark 16:12-13

**Risen Lord, our hearts burn within us with your astounded disciples.
May we hear you in your Word and see you in the Eucharist with the
eyes of faith.**

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The dear beloved apostle John

Could faster than St. Peter run,

Arriving first before the tomb. Alleluia!



The Sixth Station: Jesus Appears to His Disciples in Jerusalem

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider the disciples hiding behind locked doors, discussing the possibility of the Lord's Resurrection. As they were speaking, Jesus suddenly stood in their midst. The disciples were terrified that they were being haunted by a vengeful ghost, but the Lord reassured them and showed them the wounds he received during his Passion. He even ate a piece of baked fish to prove that he had returned in the flesh. Yet his risen body possessed glory and strength beyond what he had before his Death on the Cross. The disciples were overcome with wonder and joy.

Further Reading: Luke 24:36-49, Mark 16:14-18

Risen Lord, we need your peace with your frightened disciples. May we have faith in your great mercy and your bodily Resurrection.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

That night the Apostles met in fear;

Amidst them came the Lord most dear,

And said "My peace be on all here." Alleluia!



The Seventh Station: Jesus Gives the Disciples the Power to Forgive Sins

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how Jesus, having given the apostles his peace, breathed into them an even greater gift: his Holy Spirit. By doing so he gave them a share in his priesthood and the ability to absolve sinners in his name. Christ then sent his apostles into the world as heralds of the Father's mercy and grace.

Further Reading: John 20:19-23

Risen Lord, breathe your Holy Spirit into us with your merciful apostles. May we serve as your ambassadors of reconciliation in the world.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**When Thomas first the tidings heard
How they had seen the Risen Lord
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia!**



The Eighth Station: Jesus Strengthens the Faith of Thomas

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider the Apostle Thomas, who had not been with the other apostles when Jesus appeared to them in the upper room. He did not believe their word, saying, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later, when all the apostles were together, Jesus again appeared to them in a locked room. Once more he gave them his peace, and he allowed Thomas to touch his wounds and believe.

Further Reading: John 20:24-29

Risen Lord, our faith is weak with doubting Thomas. May we know you for our Lord and God even though we do not see you.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

“My pierced side, O Thomas, see.

My hands, my feet, I show to thee;

Not faithless but believing be.” Alleluia!



The Ninth Station: Jesus Appears by the Sea of Tiberias

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how after the Risen Lord's first appearances, Peter and some of the other disciples decided to go fishing. They worked all night without success. As the day was dawning, they saw a figure standing on the shore. He told them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, and when they did so, they caught more fish than they could haul out of the water. Then John recognized the Lord and told Peter, who jumped into the water and swam to Jesus. The other disciples followed in the boat and Jesus gave them all a breakfast of bread and fish.

Further Reading: John 21:1-14

Risen Lord, we fail to recognize you with your busy disciples. May we discern your presence in our work and serve you as fishers of men.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

When Thomas saw that wounded side

The truth no longer he denied.

"Thou art my Lord and God" he cried. Alleluia!



The Tenth Station: Jesus Tells Peter to Feed His Sheep

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how after breakfast Jesus asked Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” “Feed my lambs,” the Lord replied. Twice more Jesus asked Peter this same question, until Peter became distressed. But Jesus persisted: “Feed my sheep” he said a third time. Then Christ told Peter that he would die for the Gospel and exhorted him to follow his Lord without comparing himself to the beloved disciple.

Further Reading: John 21:15-23

Risen Lord, we are tempted to compare ourselves to others with the Apostle Peter. May we follow you without distraction, feeding your sheep and glorifying you by our life and our death.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

How blest are they who have not seen,

Their Lord and yet believe in him.

Eternal life awaiteth them. Alleluia!



The Eleventh Station: Jesus Commissions the Disciples

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how the Risen Lord gathered his apostles together on a mountain after instructing them for forty days. They worshiped him, but doubt lingered in some of their hearts. Nevertheless, Jesus entrusted them with a mission: “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Further Reading: Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:3-8

Risen Lord, we worship you with your commissioned apostles. May our doubts give way to firm resolve and confidence in your presence.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

And we with Holy Church unite

As evermore is just and right

In glory to the King of light. Alleluia!



The Twelfth Station: Jesus Ascends into Heaven

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how, without warning, Jesus rose from the mountaintop, disappeared into the clouds, and took his seat at the right hand of the Father in heaven. After forty blessed days with the Risen Lord, the disciples would see him no longer. But their joy was not at an end; the angels told them that Jesus would come again, and in the meantime, they had the Lord's business to be about. Their first task was to return to Jerusalem to await the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Further Reading: Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:9-11, Mark 16:19-20

Risen Lord, we praise and glorify you with your joyful disciples. May we do your work in this world as we await your return and our own glorious resurrection.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Our humble thanks to God let's show

And fitting praise on him bestow

For Paschal blessings here below. Alleluia!



The Thirteenth Station: Mary and the Disciples Wait in Prayer

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider how the disciples returned to Jerusalem, the city of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, to devote themselves to prayer. They awaited the promised Holy Spirit in a community centered around the apostles and the relatives of the Lord, especially his Blessed Mother. Though the disciples had once covered in fear and despair in the upper room, they now gathered there filled with hope and expectation, putting their trust in their glorified and exalted Lord.

Further Reading: Acts 1:12-14

**Risen Lord, we place our hope in you with your prayerful disciples.
May we live in newness of life as we wait upon your Spirit each day.**

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

On this most holy day of days

To God your hearts and voices raise

In laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia!



The Fourteenth Station: The Holy Spirit Descends at Pentecost

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Resurrection you give light to the world!

Consider the nine-day vigil of the disciples in the upper room. They were all gathered there on the harvest feast of Pentecost when a sound like a rushing wind filled the entire house. Tongues of fire came to rest on each disciple, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit whom the Risen Lord had promised. The Spirit gave them the ability to address the crowd in many different languages. Thus began the gathering of the first fruits of the kingdom of heaven, the proclamation of the Gospel to every nation, race, people, and tongue.

Further Reading: Acts 2

Risen Lord, we too are your Spirit-filled disciples. May we preach the Gospel and see all people enter into the peace of your kingdom!

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O sons and daughters of the Lord,

The King of glory, the King adored,

From death to life has been restored. Alleluia!

Closing

“Afterwards Jesus himself, through them, sent forth from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.”

— Mark 16 (*Shorter Ending*)

Risen Lord, you told us that you are the light of the world, and that whoever follows you will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. You also told us that we are the light of the world, and that our light must shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our heavenly Father. May we walk always as children of the light in this dark world. As sons and daughters of the Father of lights, may we shine your light in every place and keep our lamps burning until the rising of the Morning Star and the dawning of your endless day.

For the intentions of the Holy Father:

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

The Sign of the Cross

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- The Eleventh Station: Stained Glass Window of the Great Commission, St. Patrick Cathedral, El Paso, 20th Century
- The Twelfth Station: Mosaic of the Ascension, Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, Lourdes, 19th Century
- The Thirteenth Station: Mosaic of Pentecost, Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, Washington, D.C., 20th Century
- The Fourteenth Station: Mosaic of Pentecost, Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, St. Louis, 20th Century