



THE STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

PRAYING THE WAY OF THE LIGHT

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*The Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver
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INTRODUCTION

Easter bells are ringing. Jesus is resurrected, bringing joy and the promise of new life. The *Via Lucis*—the Way of Light—is a devotion similar to the *Via Crucis*—the Way of the Cross. The Way of the Cross follows Jesus' last hours of anguish and death. The Way of Light, also known as the Stations of the Resurrection, celebrates the fifty days of Easter, the most joyful time in the Christian calendar. Using the metaphor of a journey, the Way of Light moves from the experience of darkness and suffering to one of light and hope.



OPENING PRAYER

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of heav'n the glorious King,
O'er death today rose triumphing,
Alleluia!

Sign of the Cross

Reading: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his... if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him (Romans 6:5-8).

Reflection: Let us walk this pilgrimage of faith, the *Via Lucis*, as daughters and sons of the light and as witnesses of the risen Lord. Let us meditate upon the resurrection of Christ and discover the pathway of light that Christ blazes through our lives.

THE FIRST STATION
JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said” (Matthew 28:5-6).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

This is the day, Lord God, that you have made. Raising Christ from the dead, and raising us with Christ, you have fashioned for yourself a new people. As we hear the word that brings salvation, make our hearts burn within us. Through the presence of every friend and stranger, reveal to us the face of the one who had first to suffer, but who has entered now into glory, Jesus Christ, our passover and peace, living and reigning with you, forever and ever. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

That Easter morn, at break of day,

The faithful women went their way

To seek the tomb where Jesus lay, Alleluia!



“He has been raised” (Matthew 28:5-6)

THE SECOND STATION
**THE DISCIPLES DISCOVER
THE EMPTY TOMB**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed... (John 20:8).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

God our Father, Creator of all, today is the day of overwhelming joy. The Lord appeared to those who had begun to lose hope and opened their eyes to what the scriptures foretold: that first he must die and then rise. May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of bread, and follow him in his risen life. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The dear belo'd apostle John
Could faster than St. Peter run,

Arriving first before the tomb. Alleluia.



“He is not here” (Matthew 28:1-6)

THE THIRD STATION
**THE LORD APPEARS
TO MARY MAGDALENE**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means teacher). Jesus said to her, “...go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God” (John 20:16-17).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

God our Father, you want all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of your truth. Send workers into your great harvest, that the Gospel may be preached to every creature. May your people, gathered together by the word of life and strengthened by the power of the sacraments, advance in the way of salvation. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Not Magdalen, not Salome,
Nor James’ own mother then delay
Embalming Jesus’ corpse that day. Alleluia.



“Rabbouni!” (John 20:16)

THE FOURTH STATION
**THE LORD APPEARS
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. “Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures (Luke 24:15-17, 25-27).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

Lord, stay with us. Open our hearts to true conversion and, as we have known the Lord in the breaking of the bread, so make us witnesses of a new humanity, renewed, reconciled and at peace in your love. Send us as heralds of the repentance and forgiveness you offer to all. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

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.



“What are you discussing?” (Luke 24:13-27)

THE FIFTH STATION
**CHRIST REVEALS HIMSELF
IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

They urged him, “Stay with us...” And it happened that while he was with them at the table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:29-32).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

Risen Jesus, we long to walk with you and to feel alive as our hearts burn to hear your words. We long to commune with you and have our eyes opened to your presence. Show us yourself in the communion meal and in the friends and strangers we invite to stay. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

When Thomas, first the tidings heard,
How they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia.



“They recognized him” (Luke 24:28-32)

THE SIXTH STATION
**THE RISEN CHRIST SHOWS
HIMSELF ALIVE TO THE DISCIPLES**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

“Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet (Luke 24:38-40).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

God of unchanging power and light, look with favor and mercy on the entire community of your Church. Save all people, lift up the fallen, make the old new, and bring all things to perfection, through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

My wounded side, O Thomas see;

Behold my hands, my feet, said he,

Not faithless, but believing be. Alleluia.



“Peace to you” (Luke 24:36-39)

THE SEVENTH STATION
**THE RISEN LORD BREATHES
PEACE AND GIVES THE POWER TO
FORGIVE**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ...Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20:19-23).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

God of perfect peace, violence and cruelty can have no part of you. May those who are at peace with one another hold fast to the good will that unites them; may those who are enemies forget their hatred and be healed. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

No longer Thomas then denied,

He saw the feet, the hands, the side;

You are my Lord and God, he cried, Alleluia!



“If you forgive, they are forgiven” (John 20:22-23)

THE EIGHTH STATION
**THE RISEN LORD STRENGTHENS
THE FAITH OF THOMAS**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

But Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Jesus came and... said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe” (John 20:25-29).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

Heavenly Father and God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of death you raise us up with him and renew your gift of life within us. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

How blest are they who have not seen,
And yet whose faith has constant been
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia.



“Believe!” (John 20:24-29)



“It is the Lord!” (John 21:4-8)

THE NINTH STATION THE RISEN LORD EATS WITH THE DISCIPLES BY THE SEA OF TIBERIAS

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord (John 21:10-12).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

Father in heaven, author of all truth, a people once in darkness has listened to your word and followed your Son as he rose from the tomb. Hear the prayer of this newborn people and strengthen your Church to answer your call. May we rise and come forth into the light of day to stand in your presence until eternity dawns. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

On Sunday morn at break of day,

The sad disciples went their way

To see the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia.

THE TENTH STATION
**THE RISEN LORD FORGIVES
PETER AND ENTRUSTS HIM
TO FEED HIS SHEEP**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” ...Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep” (John 21:15-17).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

Father, fill our hearts with the fire of your love. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure justice and equality for every human being, an end to all division, and a human society built on love and peace. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

An angel clad in white they see.

Who sat and spoke unto the three,

Your Lord has gone to Galilee, Alleluia!



“Feed my sheep!” (John 21:15-17)

THE ELEVENTH STATION
**THE RISEN LORD SENDS THE
DISCIPLES INTO THE WORLD**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

“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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

God of all creation, whose mighty power raised Jesus from the dead, strengthen us in the power of the Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations, to obey everything that Jesus Christ has commanded us, and to know that he is with us always until the end of the age. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
And we with Holy Church unite,
As evermore is just and right,
in glory to the King of light. Alleluia.



“Go to all nations!” (Matthew 28:16-20)

THE TWELFTH STATION
**THE RISEN LORD ASCENDS
INTO HEAVEN**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it (Mark 16:19-20).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

Eternal God, clothe us now with your power. With the eyes of our hearts enlightened, may we come to understand the immeasurable greatness of your power at work in us who believe. In that strength, may we boldly pronounce the good news of our salvation to everyone. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Our humble thanks to God let's show,

And fitting praise on him bestow,

For Paschal blessings here below. Alleluia.



“He was lifted up” (Acts 1:9-11)

THE THIRTEENTH STATION
**MARY AND THE DISCIPLES
WAIT FOR THE SPIRIT**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying... All [the apostles] were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers (Acts 1:13-14).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

Father most holy, see your Church gathered here in prayerful worship like the first disciples and Mary in the upper room. Grant that we may accomplish, in the joy of the Holy Spirit, all that you give us to do in the world. May we gladly share in Christ's sufferings so as to rejoice when his glory is revealed. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

On this most holy day of days,

To God your hearts and voices raise,

In laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia!



“With one heart they prayed” (Acts 1:12-14)

THE FOURTEENTH STATION
**THE RISEN LORD
SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT**

All

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you. By the wood of the Cross and the light of the Resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Reading

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability (Acts 2:2-4).

Pause for reflection

Prayer

Father in heaven, through this spiritual journey, you have reminded us of the fullness of the mystery of your revealed love. See your people gathered in prayer, open to receive the Spirit's flame. May it come to rest in our hearts and disperse the divisions of word and tongue. With one voice and one song, may we praise your name in joy and thanksgiving. Grant this through Christ our Lord, and in the power of the Spirit, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Optional: Glory Be

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O sons and daughters of the Lord,

The King of glory, King adored,

From death to life has been restored. Alleluia.



“Filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:2-4)



CLOSING PRAYER

Reading

Jesus himself, through them, sent forth from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation (Mark 16:8).

Reflection

Through the Way of Light, we have shared our pilgrim journey with the risen Lord. As servants and witnesses of Christ, let us now pray in the way our Saviour taught us:

All

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

Prayer

Lord, may everything we do begin with your inspiration, continue with your help, and reach perfection under your guidance. We ask this through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Sign of Peace

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*Death and Life faced each other in a prodigious duel.
The Lord of life was dead, but now, alive, he triumphs.
Christ, my hope, has risen.
Yes, we are certain: Christ is truly risen.
Amen. Alleluia!*

VICTIMAE PASCHALI LAUDES

GARDENS OF

Gethsemani

CATHOLIC CEMETERY