

The Via Lucis:
Stations of the Resurrection

Compiled from various sources

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

Via Lucis

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Via Lucis

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CONCLUDING PRAYERS

APPENDIX

Additional Stations:

Jesus appears to His Blessed Mother,

Jesus Appears to Saul of Tarsus,

Jesus Appears to Us

Introductory Prayers

Hymn:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O sons and daughters, let us sing!

The King of heaven the glorious King,

Over death today rose triumphing, Alleluia!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reading: Romans 6: 5, 7, 11

“For we have grown into union with Christ through a death like His, we shall also be united with Him in the resurrection....If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with Him.... Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus”

Prayer:

Holy Spirit guide us on this pilgrimage of faith, the *Via Lucis*, as daughters and sons of the light and as witnesses of the Risen Lord. Help us meditate upon the resurrection of Christ and discover the pathway of light that Christ blazes through our lives. Amen.

Via Lucis
By Fr. Andrew Hofer, O.P.

FIRST STATION
Jesus Rises from the Dead

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have
given light to the world.

Reading: Hosea 13:14

“Shall I deliver them from the power of the nether world? Shall I redeem them from death? Where are your plagues, O death! Where is your sting, O nether world!”

Meditation

God knew how to catch his enemy. Saint Augustine preaches, “The devil was exultant when Christ died, and by that very death of Christ was the devil conquered; it’s as though he took the bait in a mousetrap. He was delighted at the death, as being the commander of death; what he delighted in, that’s where the trap was set for him. The mousetrap for the devil was the cross of the Lord; the bait he would be caught by, the death of the Lord. And our Lord Jesus Christ rose again” (Sermon 263.2). The Resurrection shows that Christ has conquered the devil through the cross!

Prayer

God the Father of mercies, let me know the power of Christ’s victory in my life.

SECOND STATION

The Disciples Find the Empty Tomb

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: John 20:1-2

“On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”

Meditation

Saint John’s account of the Gospel begins with the Word and that the Word was made flesh. Now near the end of the Gospel, we remember who Jesus is and why he became flesh. Saint Augustine preaches: “Go back to the Word, go back to *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God*, and consider what it means for that one to rise again; because having raised up his own flesh, he will also raise up yours. The reason, you see, he wished his own to rise again, was to preserve you from failing to believe that yours would rise again” (Sermon 242A.1). The disciples find the empty tomb, and they will come to realize that their own tombs will be empty.

Prayer

Most loving Father, fill me with the truth of Christ's empty tomb and my own.

THIRD STATION

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Hebrews 13:20-21

“May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will. May he carry out in you what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever [and ever]. Amen.”

Meditation

Saint Mary Magdalene came to do the will of the God of peace because of the great shepherd of the sheep. Saint Augustine preaches: “Now she recognized the one by whom she was being given the light to recognize him; the one who was previously thought to be the gardener was now seen to be Christ” (Sermon 246.3). Saint Mary Magdalene receives the light to recognize the Good Shepherd when *he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out* (John 10:3).

Prayer

I praise you, Father, that with Saint Mary Magdalene I can pray: “The Lord is my Shepherd.”

FOURTH STATION**Jesus Walks with the Disciples to Emmaus**

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Luke 24:44-46

“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.”

Meditation

Saint Augustine preaches on how the disciples learn to interpret the Bible through the Death and Resurrection of Christ: “Look, it’s happened, what was written; look, it’s been fulfilled, what was foretold; look it’s been displayed, what was read. Listen to the words, look at the facts. The truth is complete, the faith sure” (Sermon 229J.4). All the promises of God are fulfilled in the risen Lord Jesus.

Prayer

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, open my mind to understand the Bible and find my salvation.

FIFTH STATION

Jesus Reveals Himself in the Breaking of the Bread

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Luke 24:28-31

“As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over. So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at 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.”

Meditation

Saint Augustine wants his people to realize that what happened to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus happens to us. He preaches, “The Lord made himself present in the breaking of the bread. Learn where to look for the Lord, learn where to have him, learn where to recognize him. It’s when you eat him” (Sermon 235.3).

Prayer

All-powerful God, may I be made worthy to know your Son, and the power of his Resurrection, when I eat him.

SIXTH STATION**Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: John 20:19

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them. Peace be with you.”

Meditation

Saint Augustine knows that some in the Church are skeptical that Christ could appear to the disciples in a locked room. He preaches, “If you can understand how, it isn’t a miracle; and if it doesn’t strike you as a miracle, you are on the verge of denying that he even rose from the tomb” (Sermon 247.2). Faith relies on the power of God, who can reach inside even the locked doors of our hearts.

Prayer

O God, give me the grace to welcome Christ into my heart again and again.

SEVENTH STATION
Jesus Confers on His Disciples the Power to
Forgive Sins

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: John 20:21-23

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Meditation

Saint Augustine extols God’s work of forgiveness in the Church. He preaches, “IT is by the Holy Spirit which he has given to his faithful that sins are forgiven, not by human merits; the Lord said somewhere, after he had risen from the dead, *Receive the Holy Spirit*, and after saying, *Receive the Holy Spirit*, he immediately added, *Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven them*; that is, it’s the Spirit who forgives” (Sermons 99.9).

Prayer

Most merciful Father, I give thanks that you have sent your Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins, my sins, in the Church.

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Confirms Thomas in Faith

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Psalm 27:13-14

“I believe I shall enjoy the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the Lord!”

Meditation

Assuming the voice of Christ, Saint Augustine elaborates on the risen Lord’s words to Thomas the Apostle: “Come,” he says, “come touch this and believe. You said, *Unless I touch, unless I put my finger in, I will not believe*, Come, touch, *put in your finger, and do not be unbelieving, but trusting*. Come, put in your finger. I was aware of your wounds; I preserved my scars especially for you” (Sermon 258.3). Christ keeps his wounds, now glorified, especially to heal us who have wounds in our heart.

Prayer

O God, give me the grace to wait for Christ my risen Lord with courage.

NINTH STATION

Jesus Appears to His Disciples on the Shore of Lake Galilee

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have
given light to the world.

Reading: Psalm 67:4

“May the peoples praise you, God; may all the
peoples praise you!”

Meditation

Saint Augustine compares the risen Lord Jesus’ appearance to his disciples on the shore with their original call on the shore. At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus had invited them to become fishers of men. At the time of the Resurrection, their vocation would be vividly seen in their catch of 153 large fish, symbolic of the plenteous redemption of the world. Saint Augustine comments on this catch after the Resurrection: “SO the nets are cast, big fish are caught; who, after all, is going to be small there, where they will all be the equals of the angels of God?” (Sermon 248.3).

Prayer

O God, expand my heart so that all my life I may
praise you for the Resurrection.

TENTH STATION

Jesus Confers Primacy on Peter

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: 1 Peter 4:8

“Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins.”

Meditation

Saint Peter knew from his own experience that love covers a multitude of sins; his primacy of serving all of Christ’s flock sprang from love. The risen Lord asked Saint Peter if he loved him. Saint Peter’s love speaks for all of us sinners in the flock. Saint Augustine preaches, “Love three times confessed the one whom fear had three times denied. That’s why the Lord questioned him three times, so that a threefold confession might cancel the threefold denial” (Sermon 229P.2). Let love make its confession now.

Prayer

O God, I love you. I love you. I love you.

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Entrusts His Disciples with a Universal Mission

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

“The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, 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.”

Meditation

Do you see how the Gospel’s universality is fulfilled in our life? Saint Augustine preaches, “You heard what he said to his disciples after the resurrection; he sent them to preach the gospel, and it happened; the gospel was preached, it came as far as us. And lo and behold, *their sound went out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world*. Steadily, step by step the gospel came as far as us, and to the ends of the earth” (Sermon 233.1). The Lord fulfills his promise.

Prayer

Most loving Father, I praise you for your Son's promise to be with us always, and its fulfillment.

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Ascends into Heaven

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Luke 24:50-53

"Then he led them [out] as far as Bethany, raise his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God."

Meditation

The Lord's Ascension shows how he protects us from on high. Saint Augustine preaches, "The reason he rose again was to show us an example of resurrection, and the reason he ascended was to protect us from above. So we have our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ first hanging on the tree, now seated in heaven" (Sermon 263.1). The Lord reigns from his holy throne.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, may your Son's Ascension bring hope to me and to all.

THIRTEENTH STATION

Mary and the Disciples Await the Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Acts 1:13-14

“When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”

Meditation

On the disciples gather together in prayer after the Ascension, Saint Augustine preaches, “Their expectant hopes were not in vain, because the one who made the promise was not deceitful; what they were waiting for arrived, and found the vessels for its reception clean and purified” (Sermon 266.2). By God’s grace, we too can be found to be clean and purified.

Prayer

O God, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth, the face of my life, made from dust.

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Sends the Spirit Promised by the Father to His Disciples

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have
given light to the world.

Reading: Acts 2:1-4

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

Meditation

The Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of Life. He gives life to us. Saint Augustine preaches, “What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the body of Christ, which is the Church” (Sermon 267.4). Where we see Christians living by the light of the Resurrection, we see the working of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Lord God, I praise you for the Paschal Way of Light. Fill me with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit so that I may always live for you through your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Via Lucis
By Fr. Donald Haggerty

FIRST STATION
Jesus Rises from the Dead

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have
given light to the world.

Reading: Isaiah 43:13-20

“See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink.”

Meditation

The actual moment of Jesus’ Resurrection, between midnight and the gathering light of dawn, is a truth kept hidden in the heart of God. History divided into a “before” and “after” in the secret hour, just as it did at the instant of his Incarnation in the Virgin’s womb. Jesus returns to his human body, which had never ceased, as Catholic dogma affirms, to be united to his divine personhood even in death. Alive again humanly in a manner beyond mystery, still carrying the wounds of his Passion, he will soon show himself. But first his humblest creatures in the early light bear witness to the astonishing event. The birds in song break the silence that morning not knowing that angels in majestic praises fill the farthest reaches

of the universe with their hymns. Jesus Christ is resurrected and all of creation exults.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I praise you for the Resurrection of Jesus your Son, and I ask that you deepen my love for my Catholic faith.

SECOND STATION

The Disciples Find the Empty Tomb

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Exodus 33:21-23

“Here, continued the Lord, is a place near me where you shall station yourself on the rock. When my glory passes I will set you in the hollow of the rock and will cover you my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand, so that you may see my back; but my face is not to be seen.”

Meditation

The dash to the tomb by Peter and John, after Mary Magdalen’s testimony of a disrupted gravesite, a rock rolled away, may have had some bare glimmer of hope against hope. Was it possible? Had he not spoken of rising from the dead? They ran quickly, and John even faster, with Peter on arrival rushing down into the tomb in that early morning light. The burial cloths gave witness to the disappearance of his body. Later these same cloths were seen to carry the

miraculous bodily image of his horrific Passion and became known as the Shroud of Turin. The sight of those cloths, the emptiness inside the tomb, were not riddles of history for clever skeptics over time to explain away. They were the initial invitation to believe, even without Jesus visible. John, admirably, saw and believed and became the great exemplar of faith in his blind conviction of divine truth revealed on that morning.

Prayer

Father of all truth, let the power of Christ's Resurrection fill me with joy and a desire for holiness.

THIRD STATION

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Hosea 2:16-17

"I will allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart. From there I will give her the vineyards she had, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope. She shall respond there as in the days of her youth, when she came up from the land of Egypt."

Meditation

The privileged first apparition is granted to the woman who once carried seven demons in her possessed body. Mary Magdalene is one of the

Gospel's great converts, the woman of passionate love, who disdained ridicule and pushed her way forward to the foot of the cross at Calvary. She stood next to our Lady and John there, listened to Jesus' final words, watched in sorrow as he exhaled his last breath. On Easter morning her tears blinded her at the tomb because Calvary was still too close in time. She was unable to recognize Jesus when he addressed her: *Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?* But he then calls her by name, tenderly, speaking in a tone of voice she would never forget during all her remaining life. Her initial gesture to cling to Jesus, prostrate perhaps at his feet, is gently rebuked. Blind purifying faith is the lesson she must now embrace. Is it possible she became, after the Virgin Mary, the first great contemplative woman of the new Church?

Prayer

Father of mercies, inflame my heart and soul with a renewed desire to see the face of your Son Jesus, my Savior.

FOURTH STATION

Jesus Walks with the Disciples to Emmaus

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Isaiah 53:10-11

"If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life and the will of the Lord

shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his sufferings, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.”

Meditation

The divine preference of Jesus to remain concealed along the road to Emmaus, drawing near in conversation with the two disciples, yet hiding throughout the exchange, unrecognized in his identity – it is an image of the approach of God to us in divine disguises during our lifetime. The pattern is perhaps repeated many times: God raising questions of curiosity about us that quickly turn into a divine instruction on essential truths. The desire of Jesus was clearly to open these men to perceive all things linked and interlocked in God’s plan. The Old Testament prophecies came alive as Jesus affirmed the necessity of the Messiah’s suffering, sacrificial death. Surely an interpretation of Isaiah 53 was part of this private lesson. The hidden truths of Scripture being unveiled in the voice of God himself along that road to Emmaus should not be missed. We can return again and again in prayer to seek a depth of insight into Scripture by listening receptively to the Word of God who took our own flesh and now teaches us in the silent pondering of our hearts and minds.

Prayer

Gracious Father, grant me a great love for reading Scripture, that I may know your Word speaking to me each day.

FIFTH STATION

Jesus Reveals Himself in the Breaking of the Bread

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Psalm 73:23-26

“Yet I am always with you; you take hold of my right hand. With your counsel you guide me, and at the end receive me with honor. Whom else have I in the heavens? None beside you delights me on earth. Though my flesh and my heart fail, God is the rock of my heart, my portion forever.”

Meditation

At the end of the day, the mask of Jesus' concealment is lifted by means of another disguise. The bread blessed and broken at the table of Emmaus is in the Catholic tradition the consecrated Eucharist. This is the final gift of their encounter with him, given to the disciples after they pleaded with Jesus to stay longer with them. Jesus disappears as soon as their eyes were opened after receiving the Eucharist, but is that not fitting? Once his divine presence has become known, Jesus departs from their vision and returns to his concealment as God. Yet the hour lingers in its intensity with the knowledge of having been in the immediate presence of God himself. The disciples recalled how their hearts burned as Jesus interpreted the prophecies of Scripture concerning himself. A great desire to see him again was inflamed

with that first encounter with God disguised in hiding. Every reception of the Eucharist ought to make our soul burn with a desire to gaze one day upon his face.

Prayer

Father of every gift, I thank you for the gift of the Eucharist. May I always grow in love for the sacred presence of Jesus in the Eucharist

SIXTH STATION

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Isaiah 45:3

“I will give you treasures out of the darkness, and riches that have been hidden away, that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.”

Meditation

Peace be with you. These first words of the resurrected Jesus to his apostles hiding in the upper room were met with a shock of fear as they stare at him. But soon that anxious trepidation passed. Jesus brought calm in bringing himself to them. No rebukes took place, no divine reproach for running uncourageously from the hour of tasting on the previous Friday. Except for John, they allowed him to suffer alone, and indeed they intensified his pain

by their absence. Now, all this forgotten, he stands in their midst, a flesh-and-blood man, his crucifixion wounds visible in his hands and feet. They can only open their eyes in wonder to the undeniable truth of the resurrected Christ. The meeting is an ultimate revelation of his divine presence, and of a new humanity anticipated in the divine plan. One would think that a speechless quiet filled that room for a long interlude. They soaked in the reality of the God who now proclaimed without words his power over death, and this claim upon their own renewed loyalty and love.

Prayer

Father of joy, fill my heart and soul with the gift of your peace residing within me.

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Confers on His Disciples the Power to Forgive Sins

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Song of Songs 8:6-7

“Set me as a seal on your hear, as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love, relentless as the nether
world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep
waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.
Were one to offer all he owns to purchase love, he
would be roundly mocked.”

Meditation

The timing for the institution of the sacrament of penance was most fitting. In the upper room, in the presence of Jesus, these men were all too conscious of their abject weakness in forsaking Jesus at calvary. No one there would lay claim to excusing his cowardice or having made peace with his failure. It is in that condition, as priests aware of their need, that these men receive from Jesus the power to forgive sins. They receive the gift on the first Easter night that will be for centuries an encounter by sinners seeking mercy with the real presence of Jesus himself. The fact that this sacrament was handed over to the Church on this Easter evening in Jesus' first Resurrection appearance to his first priests is significant. The sacrament of penance is never simply a humbling declaration of our personal sins. It is an immediate contact with God himself performing a divine act upon our soul. The apostles, forgiven themselves by our Lord, understood this truth as they received the sacramental power to forgive sins.

Prayer

Merciful Father, give me a renewed love for the sacrament of penance and for the humble confession of my sins with regularity.

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Confirms Thomas in Faith

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Psalm 63:2-4

“O God, you are my God – for you I long! For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts, like a land parched, lifeless, and without water. So I look to you in the sanctuary to see your power and glory. For your love is better than life; my lips offer you worship!”

Meditation

The absence of Thomas from the company of the apostles on Easter Sunday evening drew forth from him his skeptical challenge when confronted with the testimony of Jesus’ Resurrection appearance. Is it possible that his reaction of disbelief was accentuated by disappointment that he had missed his opportunity, and would not get another? But God is good at giving second chances. Jesus’ invitation to Thomas the following Sunday to take up his challenge of the previous week and place his fingers in the nail marks. His hand into his side, becomes an undeniable encounter with the divinity of Jesus. The moment elicits the great prayer of adoration from Thomas: *My Lord and my God!* We can think that Thomas was on his way when he pronounced these sacred words. It is a good prayer

to repeat and a good gesture of humility to imitate in our encounters with Jesus in the sacraments.

Prayer

Eternal Father, fill me with faith in this hour and allow me to proclaim your divine reality with wonder and love.

NINTH STATION

Jesus Appears to His Disciples on the Shore of Lake Galilee

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Isaiah 43:10-11

“You are my witnesses, says the Lord, my servants whom I have chosen. To know and believe in me and understand that it is I. Before me no God was formed and after me there shall be none. it is I, I the Lord; there is no savior but me.”

Meditation

The apostles' return to Galilee, in the north, took place because they were told to go there, where they would see Jesus. But nothing, it seems, happened for some time, perhaps for two weeks or so. Then Peter, impatient, restless, unable to sit still, impulsively declares that he is going fishing. Others follow him to the boat. They have not fished in three years. No catch all night, and then Jesus is waiting on the shore in the early dawning light. He tells them to cast the

net over the right side of the boat. The miracle of a net overflowing with 153 fish is an unspoken instruction by Jesus for these men to remember a similar catch a fish when they were called three years earlier. On that day after Peter said, *Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man*, Jesus proclaimed to Peter: *do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men*. The demand to leave behind the old ways of comfort and routine, all that has been customary and enjoyed, fishing boats and Sun rises on the lake of Galilee, is giving here without a need for Jesus to add and explanatory word. The divine desire that we embrace fully his plan and mission for our lives requires frequent recognition on our part.

Prayer

Father of gracious patience, let me embrace fully my vocation and allow me to recognize your desire for my holiness.

TENTH STATION

Jesus Confers Primacy on Peter

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Psalm 27:4-5

“One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life, to gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit his temple. For God will hide me in his shelter in time of trouble, will conceal

me in the cover of his tent; and set me high upon a rock.”

Meditation

The three questions addressed to Peter as he began to walk with Jesus along the lake of Galilee were utterly personal, and yet charged with a solemn repercussion for Peter's place in the church. *Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?* And again *do you love me?* And a third time. Each assertion by Peter of his love for Jesus, besides reversing his previous denials of his Lord, drew from Jesus a command that Peter stepped forward to exercise his unique role of authority in the Church. If indeed his affirmation of love for Jesus was wholehearted and genuine, he must prove himself in feeding the lambs, tending and feeding the sheep. The Primacy of Peter in his role as chief shepherd in the Church is for the pope through the centuries to reaffirm and protect divinely revealed truth as taught in Scripture and Tradition. Faithfulness and service to truth in this role is an action of love for the flock and a proof of love for Jesus Christ himself.

Prayer

Father of all truth, give your Church a renewed strength to testify courageously to your revelation, and fill me with the desire to do so in my own life.

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Entrusts His Disciples with a Universal Mission

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Jeremiah 1:6-8

"Ah Lord God! I said, I know not how to speak; I am too young. But the Lord answered me, say not, I am too young. To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you."

Meditation

In the Resurrection appearances of Jesus, the apostles became first hand witnesses of the divinity of Christ. Before his departure at the ascension, Jesus declared that all power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. The power of which he speaks - and authority of divine truth, love, and mercy - would be exercised through his presence in the Church in the subsequent centuries. These men who were witnesses to all that Jesus spoke and did would pass on the historical account of Jesus that is contained in the four Gospels. Before taking his final leave, Jesus instructed these same men in regard to their immediate particular mission. They were to make disciples of all nations, to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected from the dead. They were to make disciples of all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The desire of God to be known in truth by all in the reality of his Trinitarian Godhead is the decisive parting word from Jesus. We are to obey the God who has commanded and given himself in love to us.

Prayer

Father of all love, fill me with a desire to give witness to my faith in a fruitful love for souls still waiting to know your son Jesus.

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Ascends into Heaven

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Exodus 3:13-14

"But, said Moses to God, when I go to the Israelites and say to them, the god of your fathers has sent me to you, if they ask me, what is his name? What am I to tell them? God replied, I am who I am. Then he added, this is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you."

Meditation

In St Luke's gospel, the last act of Jesus as he was being lifted up to the heavens at the Ascension was a blessing upon the apostles. He withdrew from sight with his blessing still lingering as their last visible memory of him. That blessing is meant to deepen for

each person over the course of a lifetime. Our Lord returns to the right hand of his father not to depart in a permanent manner from us. In fact, as he stated in the last words of Matthew's gospel, and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. The Ascension of Christ whereby he departs to the Father after the last Resurrection appearance has not become a loss of Jesus, as though he had died again and disappeared from our midst. He is ever present in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, giving us his resurrected Body and inviting us to renewed depths of love for him in his close presence.

Prayer

Father of goodness, I praise you for all you have revealed of your truth, and I pray that I may one day see your son face to face in heaven.

THIRTEENTH STATION

Mary and the Disciples Await the Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Sirach 24:18-22

“Come to me, all you that yearn for me, and be filled with my fruits; you will remember me as sweeter than honey, better to have than the honeycomb. He who eats of me will hunger still, he who drinks of me will thirst for more; He Who obeys me will not be put to shame, he who serves me will never fail.”

Meditation

The interlude of nine days between the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the holy spirit is the Church's first novena. The waiting in the course of those days was not impatient or restless; no spirit of uncertainty was present. They were all aware of the promise that the Holy Spirit - God himself - was going to be given to them in some extraordinary manner. The anticipation of this gift of God was not for something primarily external to occur as a public event. They knew from Jesus' words that the Holy Spirit would penetrate their inmost being in a sacred manner. The presence of Mary with the disciples in this time of waiting is significant. She already knew what it was to carry the mystery of God himself within her own body. Now her prayer among these men likely had a profound effect on them. She was full of grace, fully penetrated with God's presence, and her companionship with them was itself and instruction for what was coming at Pentecost. They perhaps already had an intuitive sense that she was to be a special source of maternal protection in their lives.

Prayer

Loving Father, fill me with a great longing for the presence of the Holy Spirit in my soul and for Mary's protection always.

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Sends the Spirit Promised by the Father to His Disciples

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Wisdom 7:26-27

“For she is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness. And she, who is one, can do all things, and renews everything while herself perduring; and passing into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets.”

Meditation

The image of flames of fire hovering before descending upon the heads of the apostles at Pentecost is a powerful picture of what the church is from its very inception. The flames of divine truth penetrate to the inner core of each man, and the soul of each man is altered. Not only do the apostles at Pentecost speak languages unknown to them for the benefit of their listeners. It is likely that they began from that day onward to speak a different language of love in their silent prayer with God. The presence of the Holy Spirit within them was a unifying power to keep them attentive to God's desires, submitting to all he wants. This presence of the Holy Spirit gave them an intimacy with Jesus that went beyond all they had previously known even in sharing three years with him. Now they grasped more and more

the true spirit of Jesus in all his humility as God, in his endless reception of sinners into his heart, in his thirst to be loved.

Prayer

Eternal Father, send the Holy Spirit upon your church and grant also to me a renewed love for your Spirit in the depth of my soul.

Via Lucis

FIRST STATION

Jesus Rises from the Dead

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Matthew 25: 5b-6a

"The angel of the Lord said to the women: 'Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for He has been raised just as He said.'"

Meditation

On the first day of the week, at the dawning of the new creation, Jesus arose from the dead. No one saw the event, yet like the apostles, we are called to be witnesses of this central faith event. The light and power of Christ's death and resurrection has become the pattern for our living. May we recognize Christ's dying and rising in our midst.

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 our Peace, living and reigning with You, forever and ever. Amen.

SECOND STATION

The Disciples Find the Empty Tomb

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: John 20:8

"Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed"

Meditation

The empty tomb was not a proof of the resurrection, but rather a silent witness of the greatest event of our faith. Seeing the empty tomb, the disciples were motivated to seek the Risen Lord at work in their midst. They saw and believed in the continuing presence of the Lord of love. All the empty and lonely places of human life are precisely where the Lord wishes to work and be revealed.

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.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIRD STATION

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have
given light to the world.

Reading: John 20:14b-18

"She turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?' She thought He was the gardener and said to Him, 'Sir, if you carried Him away, tell me where you laid Him, and I will take Him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni,' which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, 'Stop holding on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am going to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.' Mary of Magdalen went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and what He told her"

Meditation

In the fourth gospel, Mary Magdalen is given the mission to carry the good news of the resurrection to the apostles and the disciples. Mary had been in the company of Jesus and His followers, and is given the privilege to announce the hope of new life. She is known over the centuries as "the apostle to the

Apostles." Jesus called her by name, gave her the eyes of faith, and called her to give a unique personal witness to her friends in the faith community.

Prayer

God our Father, You will that 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. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH STATION

Jesus Walks with the Disciples to Emmaus

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Luke 24: 15, 25-27

"It happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus Himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.... And He said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into His glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them what referred to Him in all the scriptures"

Meditation

The Emmaus road is the story of the Christian life. These disciples were walking away from Jerusalem and the apostolic faith community in defeat and dejection. They had lost hope. We too, have moments of despair and desolation. The Risen Lord Jesus accompanies us along the road, even when we are moving in the wrong direction. Only the Lord can "break open" the Word in order to help us understand the stories of our lives, especially suffering, and read them in harmony with the pattern of the Scriptures. Only the Lord can rekindle our energy and our resolve to devote ourselves to what is most important in life.

Prayer

Lord God, as disciples on our pilgrimage, we implore Jesus Christ: stay with us, Lord. 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 in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You, forever and ever. Amen.

FIFTH STATION

Jesus Reveals Himself in the Breaking of the Bread

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Luke 24:29-32

"They urged Him, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.' So He went in to stay with them. And it happened that while He was with them at 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'"

Meditation

The encounter on the road leads to the table, the breaking of the bread and the total gift of self. Recognition of the Risen Lord is always linked with the Eucharist. At the heart of our Christian life is this meal of Word and Eucharist which we celebrate every Sunday. The Risen Lord presides over all our journeys, wishing to set our hearts on fire in generous service to all people in need, near and far. The gift we have received is the gift we share. Humbly, we set out on the various roads of our lives to respond to all the hungers of the human family.

Prayer

You are truly blessed, O God of holiness: You accompany us with love as we journey through life. Blessed too, is Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is present among us, and whose love gathers us together. As once He did for His disciples, Christ now opens the

Scriptures for us and breaks the bread. May the Eucharist we celebrate guide us to the fullness of Christ's life. We pray in the power of Christ's Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

SIXTH STATION

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Luke 24:38-40

Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have,' And as He said this, He showed them His hands and His feet"

Meditation

The disciples on the road to Emmaus quickly returned to the other disciples in Jerusalem with "burning hearts." Their despair had been reversed and they were eager to convince the others that Jesus was alive. Jesus the Christ is always eager to gather the community of disciples at the table of faith and to show them that He has risen with His wounds glorified. All our wounds will one day be glorified. We seek to understand how the Risen Lord invites us to be "wounded healers," recognizing now that the Lord desires us to be ambassadors of reconciliation, while we ourselves are being forgiven and healed.

Prayer

God of unchanging power and light, look with favor and mercy on the entire community of Your Church. Bring lasting salvation to the human family, so that the world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new, and all things brought to perfection, through Him who is our origin, our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Confers on His Disciples the Power to Forgive Sins

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: John 20: 19b, 20b-23

"Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you'... 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.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained'"

Meditation

Even though the doors of the Upper Room were bolted shut, the Risen Lord pierced through all fear and united the hearts of the disciples with the gift of peace. Deep inner peace is the root and source of the peace and joy that the world cannot give. The Risen

Lord calls us to seek peace always through a non-violent commitment to conflict resolution and thus transform the world, relationship by relationship.

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. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Confirms Thomas in Faith

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: John 20:24-29

"Thomas...was not with them when Jesus came.... Thomas said, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe'...Jesus came...and stood in their midst and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then He said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe'...Blessed are those who do not see and yet believe."

Meditation

The story of Thomas is important because it is through Thomas' example that we realize that doubt can be a part of faith. Too easily we call him "Doubting Thomas," and forgetting that after examining the nail marks, he fully embraced the Risen One as his Lord and Savior. Thomas' doubt was transformed into a lively faith. We too, are called to believe, knowing full well that our faith may be tested by doubt and fear. As disciples who desire an ever-deeper faith, we are patient and understanding with those who are struggling, searching and seeking like Thomas.

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. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as Your people toward the fullness of eternal life with You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NINTH STATION

Jesus Appear to His Disciples on the Shore of Lake Galilee

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: John 21:10-12

"Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you just caught.' So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come, have breakfast.' And none of His disciples dared to ask Him, 'Who are You?' because they realized it was the Lord"

Meditation

After the crucifixion, the apostles returned to their former way of life. Out on the familiar Sea of Galilee, these expert fishers find themselves ineffective and baffled because not even a single fish was caught. From the shore, the Risen Lord guides them and directs their nets until they are filled to overflowing. As He prepares breakfast for them, He nourishes their hearts and promises them that they can also be fed by making disciples in His name. He calls them to an entirely new way of fishing—fishing for people.

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.

TENTH STATION

Jesus Confers Primacy on Peter

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: John 21: 15, 17b, 19b

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?'... Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a 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.... Follow Me' "

Meditation

The Risen Lord directs His attention to Peter whose embarrassing three-fold denial was still ringing in his heart. The questions posed by Jesus help Peter to find reconciliation and to embrace his new mission to tend and feed the sheep. Their encounter reminds us that forgiveness is always available, even for the most serious of mistakes we can make. This warm embrace of forgiveness strengthens our resolve to be reconcilers and healers in the Spirit of Jesus. Only love can overcome guilt and deception. Only love and forgiveness can make us whole.

Prayer

Father, fill our hearts with the fire of Your love and the desire to ensure justice for our brothers and sisters. 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. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Entrusts His Disciples with a Universal Mission

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore, and make disciples of all the 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"

Meditation

From the mountaintop, the Risen Lord gives the "Great Commission" to the disciples to reach out to the ends of the earth. We realize that we are the recipients of this faith-filled mission: our ancestors embraced the faith of the apostles, who were the original witnesses of the resurrection. The greatest response we can give to such a legacy is our dedication to a new evangelization of our contemporary culture. We must allow the Risen Lord to reinvigorate our whole way of living, helping us to re-evaluate every aspect of our lives with the values of the Kingdom of God.

Prayer

God of all creation, whose mighty power raised Jesus from the dead, be present to this community of disciples whom You have called to the hope of a glorious inheritance among the saints. 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, interceding on our behalf, living and reigning with You in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

TWELFTH STATION**Jesus Ascends into Heaven**

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Mark 16:19-20

"So then the Lord Jesus, after He spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took His seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs"

Meditation

The Scriptures do not portray the Ascension as a day of sadness. While still looking up at the skies, the disciples were consoled by the continuing presence of the Lord. They return to the familiar surroundings of the Upper Room, with Mary, the mother of the Lord, to pray in anticipation of their mission. In this

"original novena," we continue to implore the Risen Lord to be the center of our lives and to keep us focused as a jubilant pilgrim people.

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.

THIRTEENTH STATION

Mary and the Disciples Await the Coming of the Holy Spirit

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Acts 1:13a, 14

"When they entered the city, they went to the upper room where they were staying.... All [the apostles] devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and His brothers"

Meditation

Throughout the history of the Church, there have been apostolic movements dedicated to prayerful contemplation, and others resulting in transforming action. As we have crossed the threshold into a new

millennium, we look to the "Upper Room" as a symbolic place where we return over and over again, so that we can become "contemplatives in action." As persons who are both prayerful and energetic in service to the Gospel, we must always keep vigil for the advent of the Risen Lord, with the flame of faith alive in our hearts. Only the Lord can refresh our spirits and renew us in the ministries that flow from our Baptism and Confirmation.

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.

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Sends the Spirit Promised by the Father to His Disciples

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Acts 2:2-4

"Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim"

Meditation

The power of the Holy Spirit drives the disciples from the Upper Room into the streets and marketplace. The Spirit compels them to take the message everywhere, in places familiar and unfamiliar, not stopping until they reach the ends of the world. We have been clothed with the same Spirit. We are called to be evangelizers and witnesses, near and far, wherever we go. The Spirit always goes before us, preparing the way and strengthening our hearts to be generous servants of the Risen Lord who ever guides us. Pentecost is an enduring and continuing event. We implore the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth by renewing us.

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.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Reading: Mark 16:8

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

Prayer:

Through the Via Lucis, we have shared our pilgrim journey with the Risen Lord. As servants and witnesses of Christ, let us now pray in the way our Savior taught us:

Our Father...

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.

APPENDIX

Personal Stations

Jesus Appears to His Blessed Mother

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: Matthew 16:1

“When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.”

Meditation

Why is the Blessed Mother not counted among those who go to the tomb early in the morning? Was she held captive by sadness in contemplating the death of her Son? No, for if that was the case, she would have certainly wanted to be near Him to anoint His body as the other woman desired. But she is not counted among them, why? Because at the hour known only to the angels in the night was she not given the reward for her undying hope? Was she who from her conception was so favored by God denied the favor of knowing that her Son lived? Surely she knew the glorious redemption wrought by her Son, and indeed did she ponder this in her heart.

Prayer

Hail Mary...

Jesus Appears to Saul of Tarsus

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

“For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as one born abnormally, he appeared to me.”

Meditation

The apostle to the gentiles never saw the Lord during his earthly ministry. As we are told, it is only once in his life that our Lord appears to him. It is only once but he does not fail to carry out the task given to him: *“I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness of what you have seen and what you will be shown.”*

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Jesus Appears to Us

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your holy Resurrection you have given light to the world.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:26

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.”

Meditation

The good God has promised to remain with us always, and how else is this accomplished save our Lord's presence in the most blessed sacrament. He has risen and so lives! He is here in front of us just as in the upper room! His Body and Blood call out to you: come and eat, drink, have eternal life in me. His holy wounds call out to you: come place your hand in my side, see not a bone has been broken. Brothers what shall keep us from approaching our great Creator and Savior when He has humbled Himself to come to us this very day?

Prayer

My Lord and my God! Thank you! I love you. Let my only desire be to stay with you, to serve you, to fall more in love with you all the days of my life.