

Via Lucis

THE STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

CHURCH OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

INTRODUCTION

All sing:

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 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. (*Romans 6: 5, 7, 11*)

REFLECTION

Let us walk this pilgrimage of faith, the *Via Lucis*, as children 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.

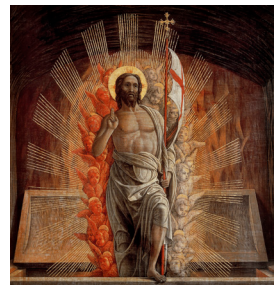
FIRST STATION

Jesus Rises from the Dead

All:

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!

**Because by the Wood of the Cross
and the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**



READING

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. (*Matthew 28: 5b-6a*)

– Pause –

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 Discover the Empty Tomb

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross
and the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**

READING

Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

(John 20: 3-8)

– Pause –

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 us and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of bread, and follow him in his risen life. Through Christ our Lord.

– Amen.

THIRD STATION

*The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalene,
Apostle to the Apostles*

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross
and the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**



READING

Mary 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 Magdala went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and what he told her. (*John 20: 14b-18*)

– Pause –

PRAYER

God our Father, you will that all people 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. Through Christ our Lord.

– Amen.

FOURTH STATION

The Risen Lord Appears on the Road to Emmaus

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross
and the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**

READING

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. (*Luke 24: 15, 25-27*)



– Pause –

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as disciples on our pilgrimage, we implore you to stay with us. Open our hearts to true conversion and, as we have known you 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, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

– Amen.

FIFTH STATION

The Risen Lord is Recognized in the Breaking of the Bread

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross and
the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**



READING

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?" (*Luke 24: 29-32*)

– Pause –

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

The Risen Lord Appears to the Community of Disciples

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross and
the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**

READING

“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. (*Luke 24: 38-40*)

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

The Risen Lord Breathes Peace and Gives the Power to Forgive

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross and
the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**



READING:

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."

(John 20: 19b, 20b-23)

– Pause –

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

The Risen Lord Strengthens the Faith of Thomas

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross and
the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**



READING

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. (*John 20: 24-29*)

– Pause –

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

The Risen Lord Eats with the Disciples on the Shore of Tiberias

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because 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 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. (*John 21: 10-12*)

– Pause –

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.

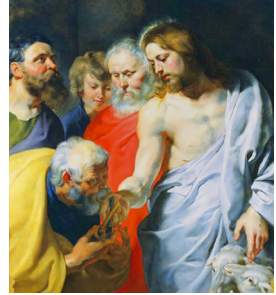
– Amen.

TENTH STATION

The Risen Lord Forgives Peter and Entrusts Him to Feed His Sheep

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because 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 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.” (*John 21: 15, 17b, 19b*)

– Pause –

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.

– Amen.

ELEVENTH STATION

The Risen Lord Sends the Disciples into the World

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because 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 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.” (*Matthew 28: 19-20*)



– Pause –

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 forever.

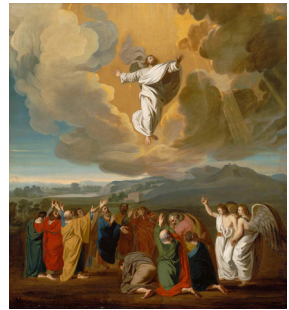
– Amen.

TWELFTH STATION

The Risen Lord Ascends into Heaven

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because 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 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. (*Mark 16: 19-20*)

– Pause –

PRAYER

Eternal God, clothe us now with your power. With the eyes of our hearts enlightened, may we come to understand the immeasur-

able 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 Keep Vigil in the Upper Room for the Spirit's Advent



All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross and
the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**

READING

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. (*Acts 1: 13a, 14*)

— Pause —

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

The Holy Spirit Descends Upon the Disciples at Pentecost

All:

**We adore you, O Christ and we praise you!
Because by the Wood of the Cross and
the Light of the Resurrection,
you have redeemed the world!**

READING

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. (*Acts 2: 2-4*)

– Pause –



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.

– Amen.

CONCLUSION

READING

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

REFLECTION

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:

All:

Our Father...

FINAL BLESSING

Lord, may everything we do, begin with your inspiration, continue with your help, and reach perfection under your guidance. And may almighty God bless you: the Father...

– Amen.