
Script for 2013 Stations of the Resurrection

Scripture readings are from *The Message*, Eugene Peterson's modern paraphrase of the Bible. Reflections and prayers are adapted from the Roman Catholic *Via Lucis* service.

Opening

Scripture reading #0/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.

Opening Reflection

Let us walk this pilgrimage of faith, the Way of Light, 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 way of light that Christ blazes through our lives. **Amen.**

Station 1: Jesus rises from the dead (Matthew 28:5-6a)

Scripture reading #1/Matthew 28:5-6

⁵⁻⁶The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here [in the empty tomb]. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed."

First Station: Prayer

Almighty God, your people are often afraid when we do not understand. Help us to see your hand working in our world. Give us the courage to listen to the angels and prophets of our time, and to hear in them the voice of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Station 2: Women find the empty tomb (Matthew 28:1-6)

Scripture reading #2/Matthew 28:1-6

¹⁻⁴ After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.

⁵⁻⁶The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed."

Second Station: Prayer

Lord God, what can be found in an empty tomb? Help us to see the potential in empty places, hearts, and lives. May Christ the Risen Lord fill our emptiness with his peace, his wisdom, and his fire. May his hope fill our hungry hearts and bring us to a greater knowledge of you. **Amen.**

Station 3: The risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20:16)

Scripture reading #3/John 20:13-16

¹³⁻¹⁴“They took my Master,” she said, “and I don’t know where they put him.” After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t recognize him. ¹⁵Jesus spoke to her, “Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?” She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, “Mister, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him.” ¹⁶Jesus said, “Mary.” Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” meaning “Teacher!”

Third Station: Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, help us to see the risen Christ among us, to hear his voice and feel his blessing on us. And help us to know that we cannot stay passively basking in his loving warmth. We must let go, in perfect trust, and proclaim the joyous news of his resurrection. **Amen.**

Station 4: The risen Lord appears on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:15, 25-27)

Scripture reading #4/Luke 24:15, 25-27

¹³⁻¹⁶That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

²⁵⁻²⁷Then he said to them, “So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can’t you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don’t you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?” Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

Fourth Station: Prayer

Merciful God, as we travel through life on our own rocky roads, help us trust that Christ is walking with us, patiently helping us see your will in the world. Help us to understand suffering and sacrifice as necessary steps on the road to salvation. Let the Scriptures be revealed to us, through the Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Station 5: The risen Lord is recognized in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:29-32)

Scripture reading #5/Luke 24:28-32

²⁸⁻³¹They came to the edge of the village [of Emmaus] where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: “Stay and have supper with us. It’s nearly evening; the day is done.” So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared. ³²Back and forth they talked. “Didn’t we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?”

Fifth Station: Prayer

Heavenly Father, you sent your son Jesus to redeem us from our sins and reconcile us to you. We celebrate the Eucharist so that we may also recognize Jesus, and use our burning hearts to do your will in the world. Grant that we receive this sacrament as prayerfully and gratefully as the first disciples of

Christ. Help us to recognize and serve Christ in our community and in each other. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Station 6: The risen Lord appears to the community of disciples (Luke 24:38-40)

Scripture reading #6/Luke 24:36-40

³⁶⁻⁴¹While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, “**Peace be with you.**” **They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death.** He continued with them, “**Don’t be upset, and don’t let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it’s really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn’t have muscle and bone like this.**” **As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn’t believe what they were seeing.** It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

Sixth Station: Prayer

O God our Creator, you made us with questioning minds and doubting hearts. You know that we are troubled by what we cannot see, touch, or understand. Grant us the faith and trust to know you and your son by the purity of your Spirit. Grant us the skill to heal the wounds of a doubting world and create in us new, clean hearts to better know and serve you. We ask this through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Station 7: The risen Lord breathes peace and gives the power to forgive (John 20:19b, 20b-23)

Scripture reading #7/John 20:20-23

¹⁹⁻²⁰Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, **fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them,** and said, “**Peace to you.**” Then he showed them his hands and side. ²⁰⁻²¹The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting “**Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.**” ²²⁻²³Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “**Receive the Holy Spirit,**” he said. “**If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?**”

Seventh Station: Prayer

God of peace, grant us the gift of forgiveness. Let us spread your peace among ourselves and through the world. Help us to receive the Holy Spirit and spread your message of redemption and reconciliation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Station 8: The risen Lord strengthens the faith of Thomas (John 20:24-29)

Scripture reading #8/John 20:24-28

²⁴⁻²⁵But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.”** But he said, “**Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.**” ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. **Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”** ²⁷Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “**Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.**” ²⁸Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”

Eighth Station: Prayer

Merciful God, we have all been “Doubting Thomases,” who needed to question your mysteries and to be reassured in our faith. Stand with us in the time of trial to transform our doubts into sure and certain

faith. Grant us the gifts of patience, wisdom and understanding to help others with their doubts and questions. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Rabbi and Teacher. **Amen.**

Station 9: The risen Lord eats with the disciples on the shore of Tiberias (John 21:10-12)

Scripture reading #9/John 21:11-12

¹⁰⁻¹¹Jesus said, “**Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught.**” Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn’t rip. ¹²Jesus said, “**Breakfast is ready.**” **Not one of the disciples dared ask, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Master.**

Ninth Station: Prayer

Lord God, help us to understand that we are not as we once were, and cannot return to our old ways. Jesus’ resurrection has transformed us. His invitation to fish in new waters excites us and empowers us. Help us to be the Good news of Jesus Christ in the world, drawing people to God through Jesus Christ. We pray through our Lord and Sustainer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Station 10: The risen Lord forgives Peter & entrusts him to feed his sheep (John 21:15, 17b, 19b)

Scripture reading #10/John 21:15, 17b, 19b

¹⁵After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “**Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?**” “**Yes, Master, you know I love you.**” Jesus said, “**Feed my lambs.**” ^{17b}Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, “**Do you love me?**” so he answered, “**Master, you know everything there is to know. You’ve got to know that I love you.**” Jesus said, “**Feed my sheep.**” ^{19b}**And then he commanded, “Follow me.”**

Tenth Station: Prayer

Father, forgive us, for we have renounced you and your son out of fear, ignorance, and expediency. Grant us mercy, may your forgiveness ignite us, that we may once again delight in your love. Grant us strength of spirit that we may be steadfast in our faith. Grant us courage to go into the world rejoicing in Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Station 11: The risen Lord sends the disciples into the whole world (Matthew 28:19-20)

Scripture reading #11/Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁸⁻²⁰Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “**God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.**”

Eleventh Station: Prayer

Mighty God, you have told us to bring the love and redemption of Jesus Christ to all who would know him, to bear strong and steadfast witness to the power of His mercy, and to know that God is with us in all we do. Empower us to be your living Word in the world, spreading the Word through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Station 12: The risen Lord ascends into heaven (Acts 1:9-11)

Scripture reading #12/Acts 9-11

⁹⁻¹¹ **These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud.** They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “**You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.**”

Twelfth Station: Prayer

O God, our Creator, we stand looking into heaven, awestruck at your miracles, awaiting your commands. And yet we must act on earth, in small and humble ways. Help us to keep our eyes and spirits focused on your heaven, and our hands and minds focused on our earthly missions. Grant us the wisdom and skill to do your will on earth and to serve one another in joy. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Station 13: Mary & disciples keep vigil in the upper room for the Spirit’s advent (Acts 1:12-14)

Scripture reading #13/Acts 1:12-14

¹²⁻¹³ So they left the mountain called Olives and returned to Jerusalem. It was a little over half a mile. They went to the upper room they had been using as a meeting place: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas, son of James. ¹⁴ **They agreed they were in this for good, completely together in prayer, the women included. Also Jesus’ mother, Mary, and his brothers.**

Thirteenth Station: Prayer

Holy Father, we praise you. Bless this community as we worship you and await the second coming of our Savior, Jesus. We give thanks for the work you have given us to do, and the fellowship of our church and fellow Christians. Guide us in all we do, that we may bring glory to your son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Station 14: The risen Lord sends the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4)

Scripture reading #14/Acts 2:2-4

¹⁻⁴ When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. **Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks**, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

Fourteenth Station: Prayer

Heavenly Father, let the flames of Pentecost give us voice to praise your name in all tongues. Look mercifully on your people, gathered in the name of your son, and grant them the spiritual gifts they need to carry out your will in our community and world. May Christ’s resurrection burn brightly in our hearts and bring us to a greater love of you through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn

Sing the “Alleluia” hymn

Closing

Scripture reading Last/Mark 16:8

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

Closing Reflection & Prayer

Through the Stations of the Resurrection, we have shared our pilgrim journey with the Risen Lord. As servants and witnesses of Christ, let us now pray: **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**.