

The Stations OF THE Resurrection

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INTRODUCTION

Our journey of following Jesus leads us to the cross, but our faith tells us that this is not our final destination. Jesus is risen from the dead and lifted up in glory. “Death no longer has dominion over him” (Romans 6:9). As disciples, we unite our lives with Christ by embracing the complete Paschal Mystery—Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. This road of discipleship is not easy, but Jesus promises to be with us always. We follow Jesus to the cross so that we may one day rejoice and enjoy everlasting life.

The Stations of the Resurrection, also known as the Stations of Light or *Via Lucis*, begin where the Stations of the Cross end. When we pray the Stations of the Resurrection, we follow Jesus’ life from the resurrection to Pentecost, providing a more complete picture of our salvation. May praying this devotional bring you hope and a greater awareness of God’s love and mercy.

The reflections and prayers in this booklet were written by the following Benedictine Sisters and Oblates of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana: Sharon Bittner, Sr. Betty Drewes, Sr. Catherine Duenne, Shirley France, Sr. Kathryn Huber, Sr. Karen Joseph, Linda Selaya, Pamela Smith, Stephanie Smith, and Sr. Jane Will.

Optional music between each station (to the tune of Stabat Mater)

By your cross and resurrection,

we rejoice in our salvation.

In your love, we are set free.

Jesus Is Raised from the Dead

Opening Prayer

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

ALL Because by the wood of the cross and the light of
the resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture: *Matthew 28:5-6*

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.”



We often find ourselves fearful and in search of comfort. God tells us often through the saints, the angels, and the prophets that we should not fear. The resurrection is the ultimate proof of fidelity to God's desire that we be comforted. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for our salvation. This was the promise of God to us, the fulfillment of the Scriptures. When the women go in search of Jesus, the absence of an earthly body and the words of the angel provide proof of God's continuing commitment to us. The resurrection is the proof that Jesus was more than a prophet but is, most importantly, our Redeemer. We shall not fear because God is faithful to the promises made to us, the people of God.

Jesus, you are our light and our salvation. You have redeemed our sins and offer us a fuller life with you. Your return to us through the resurrection strengthens our faith and knowledge in the love of the Holy Trinity. As we face times of fear and doubt in our troubled world, may we recall your promise to return and know that truly we have nothing to fear, for you are, as promised, always with us. May we allow your light to shine through us, especially during difficult times. By our example, may we serve to assure others of your presence and love. Amen. Alleluia.

Women Find the Empty Tomb

Opening Prayer

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

ALL Because by the wood of the cross and the light of
the resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture: *Matthew 28:1–7*

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’”



The reunion of the body and soul of Jesus took place in the secret of the night just before dawn, a moment that no one saw or witnessed. The women come to the tomb with spices expecting to complete the burial rituals. On their way they experience an earthquake, just as they had at Jesus' death. On arriving at the empty tomb, they see an angel who explains that Jesus has risen and tells them to share the good news with the other disciples. Two different emotions fill their minds and hearts: fear and joy. Both feelings drive them forward in haste to tell the disciples. On their way, they encounter the Risen Christ. May we, too, believe in the Risen Christ, and may we come to know that God's deepest desire for us is life. Like these women, may we bring this good news to all we meet. Like these women, may we be propelled into the world to be Christ's heart and voice, to do our part in bringing about a world of justice and peace for all.

O Risen Christ, grant us the Easter grace to acknowledge the empty tomb. May we come to believe that you are the new transformed Christ. Reveal yourself to us as you did to these women and the disciples. May we deepen our relationship with you through our life of prayer and compassionate service. May we recognize that you, O Christ, live in all of us, and all of us live in you. Help us to integrate your life and your love in our daily lives. Empower us to bring the good news with us wherever we are. We ask this in your name. Amen. Alleluia.

The Risen Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Opening Prayer

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

ALL Because by the wood of the cross and the light of the resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture: *John 20:14b–18*

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



Mary Magdalene turns and looks up and comes face to face with Jesus. Jesus speaks to her and her heart jumps with jubilation when she realizes that it is indeed Jesus standing before her. Mary's love for Jesus had her follow him all the way to the cross, to his burial, and now to his resurrection. Mary Magdalene has shown what a woman is capable of doing when she is allowed to serve. Jesus commissioned her to go and tell his disciples that he is alive. It is a giant step for her and for all women. So, Mary becomes the Apostle to the Apostles because she stood by him. Mary Magdalene was raised from a follower to an apostle because of Jesus' request to her. This gives us hope in the bleakest of times that we all have a role in ministry.

Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles, we call upon your name and ask you to help us in our daily lives. You model what we need to be about in love for Jesus and how you stood by him in his ministry, death, burial, and resurrection. As the first to see Jesus, help us capture the jubilation and spread it to the world. Thank you, Mary Magdalene, for your gift of love today. Amen. Alleluia.