



Fourteen Stations of the Resurrection.

**Devotional Booklet used at
Centurion West Presbyterian Church
during Eastertide 2011**

The Via Lucis, the “Way of Light,” also known as the **Stations of the Resurrection**, can play an important role in our devotional life, with the very same vigour of devotion as the 14 Stations of the Cross have.

Where the Stations of the Cross guide our devotional prayers during Lent and Holy Week and has so much to offer every Christian who seeks to grow in their relationship with the Lord, the Stations of Resurrection guides our reflections, prayers and worship on Easter Sunday and throughout the 50 days of the Easter Season that begins on Easter Sunday and finally culminates on Pentecost Sunday.

We reflect upon the final chapters of each of the four gospels, which tell the story of the appearances of the risen Lord from Easter to Pentecost. Fourteen "Stations of Light" have been identified. They all come from Scripture and guide us through the historic 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead described in the Bible, that we too may learn, experience and be commissioned anew as we share in the faith journey the risen Jesus had with his disciples after his resurrection. We have to say that there are many more than 14 events that could be included, and that these have been chosen, because they traditionally form part of the Way of Light devotions.

Jesus prepared his disciples at the very end of his earthly ministry, after his resurrection, to live boldly in his light, because he is the risen Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

God’s plan to plant his Church and spread the gospel through his disciples to the ends of the earth can continue through us, as we too learn these lessons they learnt 2000 years ago. May this journey lead you to powerful ministry – by the authority of the risen Lord, as he blesses us with the fruit, the gifts and the vigour of the Holy Spirit.

In spite of various local variability, there appear to be an increasing agreement upon the following as a widely used, interdenominational list of the Stations of the Resurrection. The prayers have been influenced by both the oldest and the reformed traditions and I wish to give credit to a variety of resources across the board of all the mainstream denominations from whom I have learnt so much in researching the meaning of the Stations of Light.

Fourteen Stations of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



1. Jesus is raised from the dead.

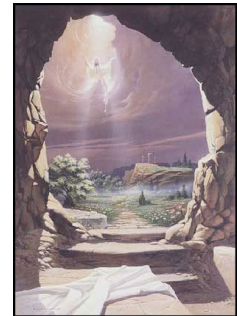
"The angel of the Lord said to the women: 'Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.'" (Matthew 28: 5b-6a).

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I came without hope to you, and you gave me hope. I came to your grave without peace but your open, empty grave granted me peace. May I never forget the first time when I knew that you are indeed alive, that you have risen indeed! Dear Lord, because you are alive, I too shall live. Amen.

2. The finding of the empty tomb.

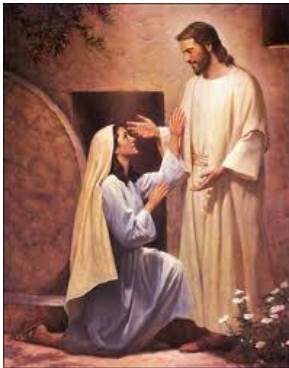
"Then the other disciple (John) also went in (to the empty grave), the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed" (John 20: 8).

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you were dead and now you live forever. I too was dead in my sins, buried in impurity and I was lost. Your life gives me life and hope and in the power of your resurrection I become a new person. Even though I am easily scared and confused, you always come to me to comfort me, because you will always be with me, giving me faith. Fill my heart with the joy and peace of your eternal Life. Thank you, dear Lord that you now through faith live in me! Amen.



3. Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus

"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 Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and what he told her" (John 20: 14b-18).



Prayer: Dear Jesus, without you I am lost, yet when I am with you, I am found. You found me, called me by my name, even when I did not recognize you, blessing me with the hope of your Life. That you found me remains my comfort in life and in death. You delivered me from the bonds which once held me, and they can hold me no more. Help me to know you, and to live and enjoy the freedom you have brought me through your resurrection. I am eternally grateful that you are my Saviour and my Lord. Amen.

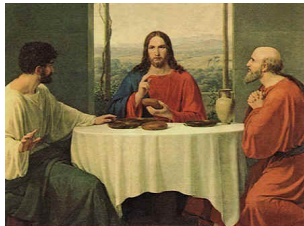
4. Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus.

"...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).



Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are alive! You were dead, but now you live! Even when I think you have left me, you are still here beside me and proclaim your Word to me. Your promises are forever true. My own fear and distress will never change the reality that you are alive and that you triumphed over death.

Grant me hope through the Word that brings me your life. Let me remember all your promises, and know that your life gives joy for all eternity. Thank you for your life and that you share your life with me through your Word. Amen.



5. Jesus is known in the breaking of bread.

"...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 the table, He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us.'" (Luke 24: 29-32).

Prayer: O Lord of life, what you say, will soothe our burning hearts. What you promise will not change, for you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. In you we find so much more than words, we find the bread of life and as we have fellowship with you when we share bread with you, we find hope and light. Open my eyes. Open my eyes by your Spirit through fellowship with you, the Living Lord. Break bread with me, dear Lord, and grant me faith. Give me light that I may understand everything you want to say to me by being with me always and everywhere. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your persistence in teaching even me. Amen.

6. Jesus appears to the disciples in Jerusalem.

"'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: Lord Jesus, you are truly alive! You were dead, but now you live! Even when I think you have left me, you are still here beside me and proclaim your Word to me. Your promises are forever true. My

troubles and distress will never change the reality that you are alive and that you triumphed over death. Grant me hope through the Word that shows me your hands and feet and thus brings me your life. Thank you for your life and that you share your life with me. Amen.

7. Jesus gives the disciples his peace and the authority to proclaim the forgiveness of sins.

"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).



Prayer: Heavenly Lord, your peace is with me always. You have called me to be your own, that I may tell others of you and of everything you taught. Give me the confidence of your life and the hope of your resurrection, the power of your Spirit and the joy of your presence. You are with me always. I pray that I will know you, and bring others to see your authority to forgive and your love that saves. Teach me how to teach this truth, give me the words to say and give me strength that I may honour you with my ministry. You made me your messenger to proclaim the forgiveness of sins. You truly bring good news to my life and through my life to all who receive your forgiveness in faith. Amen.



8. Jesus strengthens the faith of Thomas.

"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).

Prayer: Oh holy Christ, my Lord and my God! You have died, and really came back to life, raising me with you, giving me faith and taking away my doubts and fear. I was dead, and lost, yet now I live in you. I am blessed, because even though I did not see you, like Thomas did, and never will put my finger in your scars, you gave me hope and faith. I wait for you, and my waiting is not in vain. My hope in you is not foolish, because you really are alive. In you I find the power to live, to be free of doubt, and to know you always. Amen.

9. Jesus appears by the Sea of Tiberius.

"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).

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I offer you my life. You are the one who calls and who leads, for when I walk on my own I am lost and unable to succeed. In your Name I overcome, and find joy and your divine power to provide all I need. Grant me the faith and trust to live in obedience, to wait with patience and to work with passion. Teach me to trust and help me to hear. Thank you for calling me, and helping me to do what you ask of me. I am not alone. You, the living Lord, who calls and enables, are with me. For what you have done for me, I worship and praise you. Amen.



The Appearance At The Sea Of Tiberius by William Hole



10. Jesus forgives Peter and commands him to feed his sheep

"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'. (John 21: 15, 17b, 19b).

Prayer: Forgiving Christ, I do love you. When you ask me this question I will continue to reply that I love you. You forgive all our sins, even when we denied you. You deliver us from blame and shame. You are giving and forgiving. I will express my love by keeping your lambs and grazing your sheep. I will express my love by building up your Church. I love you more than all other things and know that when I forget your people, I forget you. Give me the wisdom and love to care for those who are so important to you. Amen.

11. Jesus commissions the disciples on the mountain.

"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).

Prayer: Heavenly Lord, you are with your people always. You have called me to be your own, that I may tell others of you and of everything you taught. Give me the confidence of your life and the hope of your resurrection, the power of your Spirit and the joy of your presence. You are with me always, from the beginning to the end. I pray that I will know you, and bring others to see your authority and love. Teach me how to teach, give me the words to say and give me strength that I may honour you with my whole life. In baptism you ordained me to be your messenger and I thank you for the bounty I receive in doing your work. You truly do bring good news to me and to the entire world. Amen.



12. The Ascension of Jesus.

"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).

Prayer: My Lord you do live. You have risen from the grave, and you have risen to heaven. Although you went to heaven, you will never abandon me. You will never let me fall. I will always walk with you, sharing communion with you, celebrating throughout eternity the victory you have accomplished and rejoicing in the throne the Father gave you. Thank you, Lord, for your promises which are always fulfilled. Grant me strength and faith to stand firm so that I will be ready on that wonderful day when you descend from the clouds to reign forevermore.

13. The Disciples, the women and Mary and his brothers wait in prayer.

"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).

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ you are mighty and powerful, listening to both those who are strong and those who are weak, the rich and poor, the mighty and the humble. You pursue us with a passion, drawing us close to you, filling us with hope and light. Help me to pray with patience and endurance, never losing faith in your passion to save sinners. I am waiting upon you and the fullness of the blessings of your Spirit. Amen.



14. The Holy Spirit descends at Pentecost.



"... 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).

Prayer: Father God, your Son was born, he died, and he has risen from the grave. He saved me from my sin and his sacrifice has washed me clean. He came and taught, and lived among us, and knows what it means to be human. Thank you Jesus for your love, for the life and hope which is found in you.

Now, the Spirit has descended upon us all, giving us power, giving us light, and filling us with the Source of Life itself. Help me to live in this reality, and never again be pulled back into the shadows, the darkness where I once was.

Fill me Lord with your Spirit, yes, continue to fill me every day for the rest of my days. Fill me with your Life! You alone are my hope and all light comes from you.

May the God of heaven and earth be praised forevermore! The Spirit has come and Jesus will soon return.

*Praise to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!
Amen.*