

VIA LUCIS

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Witnesses to the Risen Christ

VIA LUCIS for COMMUNITIES

Introduction

Song

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A Amen

P The life is an unceasing journey. We do not travel this road alone. The Risen Christ has promised us: "I am with you always, to the close of the age." (*Mt 28,20*). Life must be a process of continuous resurrection. We are gathered here, brothers and sisters, to realise that our life is an Easter itinerary with the Risen Jesus who guides our footsteps. Once a scribe said to him: "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go" (*Mt 8, 19*). Everywhere: on Calvary, along the Way of the Light. We are going to rediscover the resurrection as a source of our peace, as an energy of our joy, as stimulus to a newness of the history. We will hear about it as it is proclaimed in the biblical texts, expounded in spiritual experience, enlarged as it is actualised in our "today", which is "today" of God.

(Pause for meditation)

A Rejoice, Mother of the light:

Jesus, sun of justice,

having defeated the darkness of the death

illuminates the whole universe.

Alleluia.

P Let us pray. Father, send forth your Spirit of light upon us, that we may enter into the Easter mystery of your only Son, that marks the true destiny of the man. This isn't the end of everything but it is the newness of all. Father, the last word belongs to you who leads us, your sons, from death to life. Give us the Spirit of the Risen Christ and make us able to love. This way we will become witnesses of his resurrection.

A Amen

1 - Resurrection

First station

Jesus rises from the death

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to Mathew (*Mt 28,1-7*)

<Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.>



G1 After the Saturday comes the feast. After waiting in the dark comes the light. From the depth of the night dawn appears; the only one among so many, first before all, the dawn of the Easter, the beginning of a day without a sunset. The new man is inaugurated: yesterday crucified, today risen to live without end. The earthquake, the whiteness of snow, the light like on the Mount Tabor - these are the signs of God's presence. He overturns all things like the stone of the sepulchre: "Behold, I make all things new." (*Rev 21,5*). God is newness, He is ancient and always new, because is eternally young. He wants us to be forever young. In the baptism He has given us the seed of youthfulness. We are the apostles of this novelty. The women, faithful to their Master carry in their hands the jars with the spices for anointing. The angel announces a new reality: "Do not be afraid." For a long time mankind waited for this news: death has died. And life has emerged.

G2 Man of today risks running toward the grave to embalm his life. Crying is more comfortable than planning. It's urgent to be re-evangelized by this novelty brought to us from the dawn of that endless Day. Easter is the centre of the new evangelisation of man today: in the world full of informations, we run a risk of being suffocated by the communication. This Easter news could remain submerged. It's necessary to place it in the centre of man's heart and all his life. It gives taste to every conquest. Whom would this most beautiful news serve, if it wasn't known that death doesn't have the last word?

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary: Christ is risen, Alleluia!

P Risen Jesus, the world needs to be re-evangelized. The new evangelisation soothes a confused heart by so many messages. Make it resound always anew. And make women enthusiastic messengers of a root of this new life: your Easter. Create in me: a new head, a new heart, and a new life. Make us think the way you think, love the way you love, plan the way you plan, and serve the way you serve.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit,
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ,
on the path of light.

2 - The Tomb

Second station

The disciples find the tomb empty

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to John (*Jn 20,1-9*)

<Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen clothes lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.>



G1 Great excitement around the tomb. Maria of Magdala, on seeing that the stone was moved, runs into the city. Peter and John hasten to the sepulchre where the body had been placed in a hurry, because of the imminent Jewish day of Preparation (*Jn 19,42*). An unusual sight in a new sepulchre: the linen clothes lying on the ground and the cloth that had been around Jesus' head folded separately. The people at the tomb try to understand what has happened. The news arouses fear. John starts to believe in God's omnipotence. God is able to, God wants, God does. He is able because He is Almighty. He wants because is the Father. He does because is faithful.

G2 The thought of death worries man who would like to deny it: but science, technology and development move the posts only, and yet death stays immortal. The sepulchre also swallows up the hopes of the man who is even able to land on the Moon. Miserable would be the history if that grave in Jerusalem had continued to hold back the Just one; it would have been the victory of evil and not of goodness, of darkness and not of light, of nothingness and not of fullness. This absurdity if introduced into history would have changed into an absurd the whole of history, into a nonsense suffering of all innocent and oppressed who are buried in the undergrounds of time. If the man loses the key to life, he will walk the path of the absurdity.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary: Christ is risen, Alleluia!

P It is only you, risen Jesus, who can restore to us the joy of life. Only you can show us the Empty Tomb from the inside. Make us aware that in the face of death we are helpless without you. May we entrust ourselves to the omnipotent Love, that has defeated death totally.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit,
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ,
on the path of light.

3 - Lord

Third station

The Risen Christ appears to Mary Magdalene

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to John (Jn 20,11-18)

<But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" 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, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.>



G1 John and Peter, returned to Jerusalem and wait for something new. Mary of Magdala remains there instead: through the veil full of tears she looks at the grave. To the angels that question her she reveals the motive for her weeping: "They have taken away my Lord". She is as if paralysed with pain. Jesus still unrecognised calls her by name: "Mary". The heart of Magdalene is ablaze, the face lights up with joy, the spirit kindles: it is He who pronounced her name in his own characteristic way. Maria, called by name, responds with another name full of affection and immense respect: "Rabboni" (Teacher).

G2 The world of today has still so much to learn. Woman, considered incapable understanding the Scriptures, legally forbidden to testify, is chosen as the first witness to the resurrection. History puts on another sense. The Risen Christ entrusts a mission to a woman: to announce the good news to the apostles (*to be an apostle to the apostles*), to shout that the life is alive; that the road blocked for centuries to more than half the human kind, the women, has been finally opened. With the richness of femininity, the woman becomes in the Church the depository of joy and life. She is a new Eve for the new era of Two thousand.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P Risen Jesus, you call me because you love me. In my daily life may I recognise you like Mary Magdalene. You say to me: "Go to my brethren and say to them". Help me to travel across the roads of the world, in my family, in the school, in the office, in the factory, in so many activities of the leisure time, to perform with great care this task of announcing Life to the world.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.

4 - Road

Fourth station

The Risen Christ on the road to Emmaus

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to Luke (*Lk 24,13-19.25-27*)

<That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that had happened there in these days?" (...) And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.>



G1 "I am the road", said Jesus. He himself is God's road to the man, that crosses the dark paths of the humanity lacerated inside and frayed on outside. Man with wavering step meets the sure stride of Christ on the road to Emmaus on the morning of the day of the resurrection. The Risen Christ, God's road toward the man, now becomes the man's road towards God. It was the day of the light, and the disciples remained blind. It was the day of joy, and the disciples remained sad. It was the day of the Resurrection, and the disciples remained like dead. God brings man back on his roads because the man is his priority. Jesus is God unrecognised at Emmaus and becomes our travelling companion. He doesn't break our window-panes but knocks at the door, awaits, enters, listens and asks questions. Then as patient teacher he explains, or rather reveals himself.

G2 Contemporary people full of riches and comforts are crushed by the weight of sadness. Yet there is a great difference between the motive for the sadness of the two of Emmaus and that of his disciples of today. The first two were sad because their Master was dead; we remain sad, even knowing he is alive. We remain paralysed in front of all the events. We have missed the main point. God follows us on our roads, he takes care of us, picks us up when we fail, surprises us with his love, he understands us, and we still don't trust him. With the two disciples, Jesus pretended he had to continue the journey. The pretences of God become a stimulus for the man. The silence of God is also expressed when we take another road without him, in arousing feelings of opposition, of uneasiness, of disappointment .

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P Stay with us, Jesus: it is drawing late. We will give you a shelter. We will give you a dish. We will give you warmth. We will give you love. Stay with us, Lord: the shade of doubt and anxiety weighs on the heart of every man. Stay with us, Lord: and we will be in company with you, and that is all we need. Stay with us, Lord, because it is growing late. And make us witnesses to your resurrection.

A Amen

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.

5 - Emmaus

Fifth station

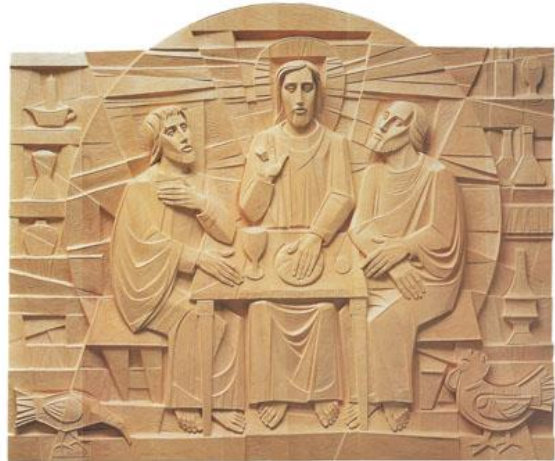
The Christ reveals himself in the breaking of bread

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to Luke (Lk 24,28-35)

<So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Say with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; and vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.>



G1 The Lord enters the inn. On a pressing invitation of the two He sits at the table for the first time after the resurrection. It's the first supper of the terrestrial Jesus and the forttaste of the eternal supper of the Kingdom. The destiny of the man is the supper, that is the communion with God and with His children. The two disciples, prepared by the Master along the road through the reading of the Scriptures, open their eyes in the breaking of bread. Faith completes the opening of the heart. It is he, the Lord. Emmaus is a slow process of recognition. There is the guidance of the Master toward the nucleus of the Word. And then there is His gesture, in the actualisation of the great Word: the Supper.

G2 Modern man has multiplied the grid for the communications, but he has not opened the doors of his heart. It's necessary to go to school of Emmaus. Every time we open the doors of the heart to another person, to a stranger, to an estranged person, we find the doors of the heart of God open. The two of Emmaus, performing an act of love, are getting ready for the supreme experience of love: the Supper: they are ready to learn how to love: the recognition. If the people of today restart loving the small ones, the poor, the distant ones, the oppressed, all those who being of the same clan, are also God's children even if unknown, then only will they discover their blindfolded eyes. And they will see love, that is, they will experience the Risen one, the God "in ambush" on all roads.

**A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.**

P Risen Jesus: at the Last Supper as an earthly man, through the washing of the feet you have shown us the only way to participate in the Eucharist. At your First Supper as heavenly man you have wanted to show us that hospitality towards a stranger is a condition for the communion with you. Lord of glory help us to prepare our celebrations, washing the tired feet of the abandoned ones, welcoming in our hearts and in our houses "the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind" (Lk 14,13), the needy of today, who don't have any other sign of recognition if not that of being your living image.

A Amen.

**A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.**

6 - Cenacle

Sixth station

The Risen Christ shows himself alive to the disciples

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to Luke (Lk 24,36-43)

<As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.>

G1 The Risen Christ is a patient teacher on the road to Emmaus, as well as during the meal. Here is an example of his Easter pedagogy: with the word and the gestures, he leads his disciples to the conviction of the truth of the resurrection. He brings them from the initial terror to uncontainable joy. "Handle me, and see" (Lk 24,39). The verb

connotes a tangible experience. It will become the reality of the Christian message. John uses it in his first letter: "we have touched with our hands" (1 Jn 1, 1). The Risen Jesus is not a shadow. The resurrection is not a fable. Easter is not a myth. Jesus is alive. The Risen Christ is real. He is a true sign of the living God. He is his power of love. The Risen Jesus represents man's unrealised dream: his victory over death, the beautiful side of life, here it comes true. And now it is open to the man. It is palpable like a beauty of a new born baby. The world is in need of this Easter pedagogy.

G2 Man of today is waiting to meet the witnesses of the resurrection. The world must be able to touch the scars of love of the Church of Christ. Pedagogy is texture of patience and ability of intelligence. And it is the skill of experience. We need a familiarity with the Risen Christ on the wave of prayer, of the Word and of the Eucharist. We also need to tune into the world of today: with its poverty and perplexity, its anxieties, its hopes and its uncertainties in the future.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P Risen Jesus, we admire you for your patience in the passion: the silence. We admire you for your patience in the resurrection: the pedagogy. To us, as people of today who want everything and at once, give the capacity for a love that would know how to wait, that would know how to exercise it in prayer. You are alive and not a ghost. May we believe in you as the Living one (Act 1,18). Free us from the wrong images of you we might have constructed. Make us suitable for being your signs. The world waits for them to be able to believe.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.luce.



7 - Reconciliation

Seventh station

The Risen Christ gives power to forgive sins

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to John (*Jn 20,19-23*)

<On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

G1 The Holy Spirit is the first Easter gift that the Risen Christ together with the Father offers as their best gift. It is their eternal tie of love and their "eternal kiss". It is their mutual joy and their perfect friendship. The Spirit is represented by the breath, that is the puff of life that comes from the depth of the chest. Just like the Spirit, that gushes out from the depth of the breast. Just like the Spirit, that gushes out from the depth of the life of the Father and the Son. Therefore the Risen Christ communicates peace here, the shalom: the remission of the sins. The Spirit is the perfect harmony between the Father and the Son. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (*Jn 3,16*). For the Father and the Son have loved the world so much that they give their Spirit. Here we touch the love that gives and that forgives.



G2 The people of today are in need of life. The whole world is in need of the Spirit, in need of Life and peace of the Father and of the Son and of the Spirit. Having developed and improved life, we have extinguished the joy of life. We have extinguished so many lives in their germ. We have extinguished the sense of life. Having multiplied also the means of communication, we find ourselves in the cold anonymity and in a painful incommunicability. Although we have increased the general income, two thirds of the world live in total poverty. The desire to have in the Northern Hemisphere of the world causes the starvation of the goods of the Southern Hemisphere. Here is a chance for a possible healing. Christ's Church has the power to forgive our sins of closing up and of egoism.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P Come Holy Spirit. You, the first gift of Risen Jesus, be the enthusiasm of the Father and the Son within us who grope in boredom and in darkness. You, the Harmony of the Father and the Son, push us toward justice and peace: release us from our capsules of death. You, the Eternal Life of the Father and the Son, breathe on these our dried up bones and lead us from sin to grace. You, Youthfulness of the Father and the Son, make us always young, make us enthusiastic and expert Easter people.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.

8 - Thomas

Eight station

The Risen Christ strengthens the faith of Thomas

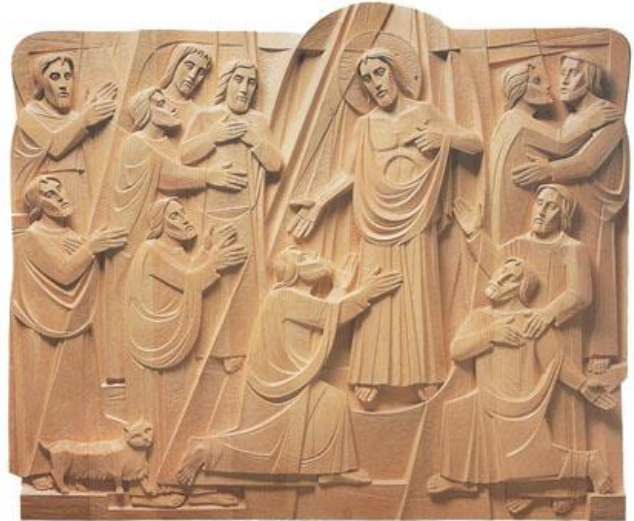
P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to John (*Jn 20, 24-29*)

<Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.">



G1 The unbelieving Thomas is led by the hand to touch the wounds of the risen dead. He touches, prostrates himself and exclaims: My Lord and my God!. Those scars are the

credentials of God, they are the signature of God in deeds of Jesus of Nazareth. They are the guarantee of his declarations, with his self-affirmation at the centre: "I am the way and the truth, and the life." (*Jn 14,6*) "I and the Father are one (*Jn 10,30*).

Here the world touches the true sign of the living God. Thomas had his experience in the name of us all. He was invited to touch the wounds of Jesus for you and for me. He was invited to touch His wounds for us each one of us. And this healed him from his personal wound of unbelieving. And through this experience we recover from our wound too. It revives our faith.

G2 The modern man, who accepts nothing without proof, needs the experience of Thomas. Also to the people of today the Risen Christ says: touch me in the Church, touch me in the saints. To us believers has been entrusted a task to multiply signs of resurrection through the life commitment. Experts in life that grows, in the name of the Lord who has defeated death, we promote life in all its beauty. The Church of the believers makes herself credible above all in her testimony. If she presents wounds to touch, if she presents martyrs and servants she will be certainly believable.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:

Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P O Risen Jesus, we say to you every day in faith, "My Lord and my God." Faith is not a noon of the vision. Faith is not easy, but it makes happy. Faith is trusting You in the darkness. Faith is entrusting ourselves to You in time of trial. Lord of life, increase our faith. Give us faith, which is the root of your resurrection. Give us trust, which is the flower of your resurrection. Give us fidelity, which is the fruit of this resurrection.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.

9 - Tiberiade

Ninth station

The Risen Christ meets his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to John (Jn 21,1-9.13)

<After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing," They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them. "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them. "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. (...) Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.>



G1 Jesus asks for food. Yet he doesn't need it; his body is glorious. He makes this request to share this human necessity, to partake at man's daily table. In a similar way Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for water at the well of Sychar. God that asks is an unprecedented God. He asks the man to get in to his world and presents his power of love. To stimulate/*incite* his disciples, he asked them to cast the previously empty net and now incredibly full. Then he invites them to a lavish and cheerful meal. Without him, the table would have been miserable and sad.

G2 Jesus knocks at the door of today's world. He wants to enter it. It is a tired and desperate world, full of lights and deprived of the light; full of ephemeral and pleasurable things available to few only; while the heart remains empty like the net. For the majority there is poverty and oppression, there is dishumanization, there is a blocked future. And the stomach stays empty like the net. This way man experiences emptiness of heart. The absence of the divine; the lack of the human; it is Risen Jesus who approaches first and asks. When God loves, he also gives. If God has a preference for somebody, then he asks him. He asks to relaunch the hope and the love which become perfect through exercise.

**A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.**

P Risen Jesus, make us meek to recover the hope, after our failures. You, the Risen Christ, sit at the table with us. During your stay among us right after your resurrection you did not appear the victorious God full of splendour and glory but as the simple ordinary one, who celebrates the Easter on the shore of a lake, at the table out of doors. Make us witnesses of your resurrection in everyday life, with its monotonies, where on the shores of our sufferings you have always awaited us since eternity. Sit at the tables of satiated, but empty men. Sit at the tables of the poor ones, that still have hope. And the world that you love will become new, modelled on your resurrection.

A Amen.

**A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.**

10 - Peter

Tenth station

The Risen Christ confers the supremacy upon Peter

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to John (*Jn 21,15-17*)

< When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the 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." >



G1 Risen Jesus meets Peter "heart to heart", with the sonorous and lapping lake in the background. After every great encounter there is a great assignment. Jesus asks Peter for the triple declaration of love: "Simon, do you love me more than these?" A few days before, Peter had denied three times that he knew him. So three times now he has to repair the betrayal of love with a renewed declaration of love. "Lord you know everything, you know that I love you." And after every attestation of the heart, Jesus confers upon Peter the power which is a service of the love: "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep." To love Jesus above all is not an idyll: it is a commitment, especially for those chosen by Jesus, because he has paid for them with his blood.

G2 The people of our time, particularly divided by billows and storms, have more than ever a need of a sure and stable reference point. We need the security of Christ who grazes his lambs and his sheep through Peter. Grazing is nourishing. Grazing is enlightening. Grazing is comforting. Grazing is freeing. Grazing is making to develop. Peter is an Easter gift. He is one of us, our brother, made a shepherd not for his humanity, fragile like the rest, but for the word of Jesus that sustains him. In the name of Jesus he carries out the role of a guide, for us, the flock of his pasture.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P We thank you O Risen Christ for Peter of today, our Pope. He lives out his apostolic service with so much generosity and warmth sacrificing this so beautiful as well as difficult time. Every day you also ask us: "Do you love me more than these?" To us, with Peter and under Peter entrust a part of your flock. And we entrust ourselves to you. Persuade us, Teacher and life giver, that only if we love will we tend your flock; and only with our sacrifice will we feed it on your truth and on your peace.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.

11 - Mission

Eleventh station

The Risen Christ entrusts to the disciples the universal mission

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Gospel according to Matthew (*Mt 28,16-20*)

< Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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 lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." >

G1 The Risen Christ is the Lord of history. The power, which the Father gives him, he passes on to his disciples. On the mountains of Galilee and that of the beatitudes he inaugurates the new history. He has pointed out the new genetic code: today, on the mountain of Galilee, the carnal men who put on the Spirit, they receive the task to transform the world by baptising and making divine a man and every fragile creature. To teach is to cast the light on the new destination of the world. To make disciples of all the people means to insert them into the Easter community, the Church, without distinction of race and culture. This community is a house and a sign of the love of the Trinity. It is a house into which all are called. It is an enormous task, that of the commission and that of mission: it involves a total devotion to the Good News. With Easter, the dynamism doesn't end, but starts. The whole world up to the end of the centuries is her place of work - it is God's vineyard.



G2 People of today live in the immense field of the world. A world that becomes more and more complex with its demands and problems, with its risks of nuclear conflict, with its fear of violence and nonsense. But how to go to the world? How to announce the Good News? How to transform it without forcing it? How to be faithful to the God of the history and the history of God? The risen one is with us, until the end of the world.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P Risen Jesus, may your promise: "I am with you always" (*Mt 28,20*) be comforting. By ourselves we are unable to persevere in carrying the smallest burden. So much less can we hold up on our weak shoulders the weight of the world. We are weakness, You are strength. We are inconstancy, You are perseverance. We are fear, You are courage. We are sadness, You are joy. We are night, You are light. We are stagnation, You are Resurrection.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.

12 - Ascension

Twelfth station

The Risen Christ ascends Heaven

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Acts of the Apostles (Act 1,6-11)

< So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." >



G1 The Risen Christ has conquered death and has entered into the sphere of life without end. His body is also a sign of the glory. During the forty days of the Easter season he makes himself to be seen, he lets us to touch and to embrace him; Jesus speaks, he eats and walks with his disciples; and he gives the last supreme promise: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"; to fulfil the universal mission. That cry: "It is finished" (*Jn 19,30*), that comes from the cross is now complete. Entering into the sphere of life without end, the Risen Christ withdraws from view of the human eye. But the Risen Christ stays with the people, as he has promised: "I am with you always." Jesus shares with the Father the universal dominion. Now he sits on his right. In this way human nature enters into the sphere of God. No materialist could ever glorify the matter as it is glorified in the mystery of the ascension of the Risen Christ.

G2 The man of today doesn't look to heaven, earth is enough for him. At least, he thinks so. But the heaven is where the invisible God is. The saints experience it as inheritance. The man of today blinded by a wrong idea of possession - just to have, by pleasure and by power, doesn't sharpen his eye to the invisible realities. He suffers from serious myopia, if not of absolute blindness. The man of today fears that looking to heaven will make him forget earth. Yet heaven will be a final experience of those who on earth feed the hungry and comfort the desperate. Only those who in time will have opened the doors of heaven for God's poor and hungry children can enter into the eternal Easter.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P Risen Jesus, you have gone to prepare us a place. The place of the man-child is at the right of God the Father and the Mother. You have bought the ticket. We must not tear it. Keep our eyes fixed on the place of eternal joy. A piece of heaven repairs everything. Looking at Easter, we will make it come true on earth for every man and for the whole man. Easter of today, that liberates men, is a cheerful prophecy of the beatitude without end.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.

13 - The Wait

Thirteenth station

Waiting with Mary the Holy Spirit

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Acts of the Apostles (Act 1,12-14)

< Then they (the apostles) returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away; and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. >

G1 Waiting for the Spirit. Coming down from the mountain, they enter in prayer. Jesus is no longer visible. The cloud of the ascension has placed him in glory. The Risen Christ is no longer visible to the human eyes but only to those of faith. Easter community implores for the Spirit. He is now awaited with his gifts. The Church will be born and begin her journey as missionary of the Risen one. Invoking Holy Spirit is always effective. In fact Jesus guaranteed: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Lk 11,13). Since then and forever Easter community is assembled in the name of the Risen Christ, and in his presence, it implores the Father for the Holy Spirit of love, who renews the face of earth. And it is a perennial Pentecost. The Easter prayer is marked by the presence of Mary, Jesus' Mother; already present at the supper, where the first group starts seeing the signs; present on Calvary, where the Church is at the planning stage; now present in the Upper Room, where the Church is born. Mary is an expert in the Easter mystery: death and life, cross and resurrection.



G2 The man of today distracted by the passing shadows and allured to cross the paths of death, tends to forget about God. A light shines at this turning-point. It is the Church desired by Christ to save all those who seek salvation. It is the Church, assembled in prayer with perseverance. It is the XX century young Church that speaks to those who are young in age and in spirit. The world, with its logic contrary to the beatitudes, takes man away from God. Instead the Church, that is transparency of Christ, brings him to God again. The experience of the the Upper Room brings about a new culture of life.

A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.

P O Jesus risen from death, always present in your Easter community ,through the intercession of Mary, pour forth on us, here and now, your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father: the Spirit of life, the Spirit of joy, the Spirit of peace, the Spirit of strength, the Spirit of love, the Spirit of Easter.

A Amen.

A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.

14 - The Spirit

Fourteenth station

The Risen Christ sends the promised Spirit

P We adore, O Risen Christ, and we bless you.

A Because by your resurrection you have given life to the world.

R From the Acts of the Apostles (Act 2,1-6)

< When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language." >

G1

Pentecost, a promise fulfilled. The Risen Christ carries out his solemn promises: "The Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you..." (*Jn 14,26*). God is faithful. He keeps his appointments. He said:

"The Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (*Mt 20,28*). And his Word made the history: Good Friday. He said: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (...). But he spoke of the temple of his body." (*Jn 2,19.21*). And his Word was victories over death. He said: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (*At 1,8*). It is a conclusion of the seven Easter weeks where his final word is "Pentecost": the power of the Spirit, the birth of the Church. The new humanity on a journey.



G2 The man of today must remember that "the true sin - as Evdokimov comments - it is to be insensitive to the Holy Spirit." That is to say, being closed to love. The Spirit overcomes pessimism of the future. God is optimistic about man. Here are the good acts of the Spirit: goodness that comes true, the love that triumphs, the wheat that becomes golden. The Pentecost unites the entire humanity. For a sceptical and tired person believing in the Holy Spirit, is not believing only in God and in his love, but also to believe that God believes in me, that God trusts me, that God expects a lot from me. I must go to the Spirit who is already at work in the history. And then life can really become a banquet of love and peace. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (*Gal 5,22-23a*)

**A Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Mary:
Christ is risen, Alleluia.**

P O Holy Spirit, you inexpressibly unite the Father and the Son; you unite us to the Risen Jesus, the breath of our life; it is you who unite us to the Church, of which you are the soul and we the members. In the words of St. Agostin each one of us now prays:

(all together)

"Breath within me, O Holy Spirit, that I may think of what is holy. Inspire me, O Holy Spirit, that I may do what is holy. Draw me, O Holy Spirit, that I may love what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, that I may never loose what is holy."

A Amen.

**A O Mary, temple of the Holy Spirit
guide us, the witnesses to the Risen Christ
on the path of light.**

Conclusion

The celebrant can invite the participants who have candles to light them up from the Easter candle. He can say the following accordingly, to each individual or to a whole community:

"Take and carry the light of the Risen Christ to the brothers and sisters you meet."

All respond: Amen.

Then Baptismal Promises are renewed:

P Baptism is for man a forthtaste of the resurrection. Thankful to the Father who endlessly calls us from the darkness into his Kingdom of Light, we conclude our journey renewing our Baptismal Promises.

Brothers, if you want to follow the Risen Christ on the roads of the world:

P Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

A I do.

P Do you reject glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

A I do

P Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

A I do.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

A I do.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

A I do.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holly Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

A I do.

P God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins.

May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

A Amen.

Song