

**VIA LUCIS ~ The Paschal Way of the Light**

**'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).**

**Let us walk this pilgrimage of faith, the Via Lucis, 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 pathway of light that Christ blazes through our lives.**

**- First Station -**

**Jesus Rises 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)**

*Pause*

**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 Find the Empty Tomb**

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

*Pause*

**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 our minds and open our eyes that we may know Him in the breaking of bread, and follow Him in His risen life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**- Third Station -**

**The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles  
"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 Magdalen went and announced to  
the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and what He told her" (John 20: 14b-  
18)**

*Pause*

**God our Father, You will that all people to 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. We ask this through Christ  
our Lord. Amen.**

**- Fourth Station -**

**The Risen Lord Walks with the Disciples 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)**

*Pause*

**Lord God, as disciples on our pilgrimage, we implore Jesus Christ: stay  
with us, Lord. Open our hearts to true conversion and, as we have known  
the Lord 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 in the name of  
Jesus, who lives and reigns with You, forever and ever. Amen.**

**- Fifth Station -**

**The Risen Lord Reveals Himself in the Breaking of the 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 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*

**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 Disciples**

**"'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)**

*Pause*

**God of unchanging power and light, look with favour 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 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)**

*Pause*

**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 Confirms Thomas in Faith**

**"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: 2429)**

*Pause*

**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 Appears to His Disciples on the Shore of Lake Galilee**

**"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*

**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**

**"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)**

*Pause*

**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.**

**- Eleventh Station -**

**The Risen Lord Sends His Disciples into the World**

**"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*

**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 for evermore. Amen**

**- Twelfth Station -**

**The Risen Lord Ascends into Heaven**

**"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*

**Eternal God, clothe us now with Your power. With the eyes of our hearts enlightened, may we come to understand the immeasurable 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 Await the Coming of the Holy Spirit**

**"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*

**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 Risen Lord Sends the Spirit Promised by the Father to His Disciples  
"... 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*

**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, and in the power of the Spirit, both now and for evermore. Amen.**

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**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 Saviour taught us:**

**"Our Father..."**

**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.**

Adapted from [www.archdioceseofdetroit.org](http://www.archdioceseofdetroit.org)