

THE BASILICA OF
SAINT MARY
OF THE ASSUMPTION



VIA LUCIS
STATIONS OF LIGHT

MARIETTA, OHIO

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

INTRODUCTION

All: **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**
O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!
The King of Heaven, the Glorious King,
O're Death Today Rose Triumphant,
Alleluia!

Priest: Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, after the death of Jesus on the Cross, Jesus rose triumphant from His tomb. His Apostles and women followers were filled with grief. They did not expect Jesus to Rise from the dead. They thought that all was lost.

In the days following the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to them at various times, and in various circumstances. They came to understand that death could not, and did not hold their Lord.

We now walk this pilgrimage – this journey of Faith – this Via Lucis – this Way of Light, as sons and daughters of the Light and as witnesses to the Risen Lord.

FIRST STATION

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS FROM THE DEAD



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “After the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher. 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. The angel said to the women: ‘Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the Crucified. He is not here; for He has risen as He said.’” (Mt. 28:1-6).

Reflection: On the first day of the week, at sunrise, Jesus the Son of God arose from the dead. No one saw the event, yet like the Apostles, we are called to be His witnesses. The light and the power of His death and Resurrection, have become the pattern for our life. May we recognize Jesus dying and rising in our midst.

All: Lord Jesus, You are risen from the dead. By Your death, You have trampled death and restored life to all who lie in the graves. Give us a deeper hope of Your promise of Resurrection, and help us to bring that hope to all who suffer with You on Your Cross.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE SECOND STATION

THE WOMEN DISCOVER THE ANGEL AT THE EMPTY TOMB



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “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.” (Jn. 20:1) “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 and see the place where He lay.’” (Mt. 28:6-7)

Reflection: The empty tomb was a silent witness to the central event of our Faith. Seeing the empty tomb, the women and the other disciples desired to seek the Risen Lord. They discovered Him working in their midst. In all of the empty places of our lives, Christ is present desiring to fill our loneliness and our fear.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, You appeared to those who had begun to lose hope. You opened their minds and their eyes to what the scripture had foretold: that first You must die and then rise. Lord of all life, send the power of the Holy Spirit to each one of us, open our minds and our eyes so that we too can discover and know You in the breaking of the bread, and follow You in Your risen life.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE THIRD STATION

THE RISEN LORD APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “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. 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 put Him.’ She turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her: ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?’ She thought He was the gardener, so she said to Him: ‘Sir, if You carried Him away, tell me where You 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.” (John 20:11-16)

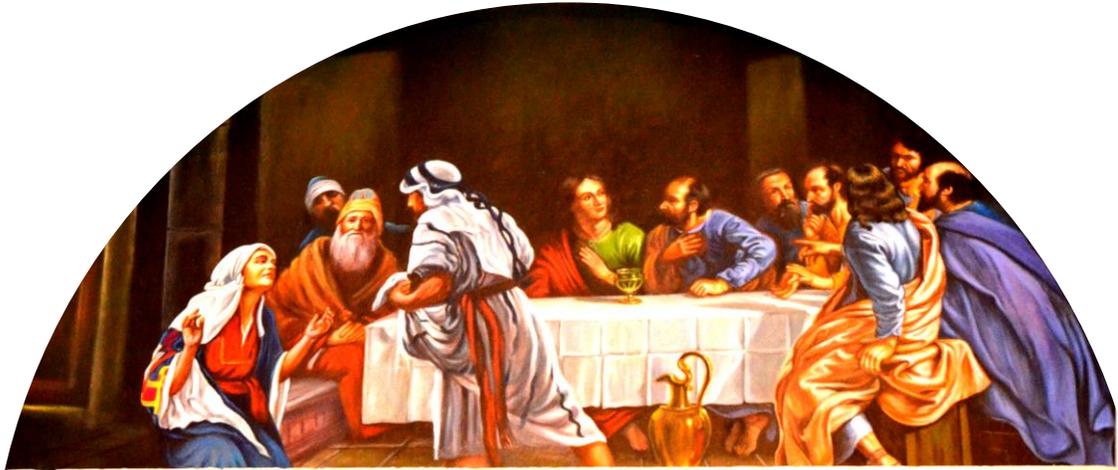
Reflection: Mary went to the tomb in grief. She wanted to anoint Jesus’ Body for proper burial. She expected to find the tomb sealed and wondered who would roll back the stone from the entrance of the tomb. When she realized that the tomb was empty, she immediately thought the worst – someone had stolen the Body. Angels gave her the good news of the Resurrection, but in her grief, she could not yet believe. Then she saw what she thought was the gardener. Jesus then called her by name and gave her the eyes of faith. She recognized Jesus and ran to His Apostles.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, when Mary stood weeping at the tomb, You appeared to her as a gardener. You reassured her, and You opened her eyes of faith so that she could recognize You and proclaim Your glorious Resurrection. Help us always live in hope and strengthen our faith in the power of Your Resurrection.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

FOURTH STATION

MARY MAGDALENE PROCLAIMS THE RESURRECTION



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “Mary Magdalene when and announced to the disciples, I have seen the Lord, and she told them that He had said these things to her.” (Jn 20:17)

Reflection: In the Gospel of Saint John, Mary Magdalene was given the mission of announcing the good news of the Resurrection to the Apostles and disciples. Mary had been in the company of Jesus and His followers. She was given the privilege of announcing the hope and promise of new life. She has been know over the century as “The Apostle to the Apostles.” Jesus called her by name, gave her the eyes of faith, and called her to give a unique personal witness to the community of the Church.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, You chose Mary Magdalene to announce the good news of Your Resurrection to Your disciples and Apostles. Give us the grace to live our lives focusing on the joy of Your risen life. Send workers into Your harvest that the good news of the Gospel may be preached throughout the world. May each one of us, strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in everything we say and everything we do.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

FIFTH STATION

THE RISEN LORD APPEARS ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about all the things that had happened in Jerusalem. While they were walking, Jesus Himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. He said to them, 'O how foolish you are! How slow you are 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 for them what referred to Him in all the scriptures. (Lk. 24: 13-27).

Reflection: The Emmaus road is the story of all life. The disciples were walking away from Jerusalem. They felt defeated and alone. They had lost all hope. We too have moments of defeat and despair. It is in those moments that the Risen Lord accompanies us along the road – even when we are walking in the wrong direction. The Risen Lord is the only One who can help us understand the stories of our lives, especially the suffering. Only the Risen Lord can rekindle our energy and our resolve to keep on going on our journey to the House of our Father.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, as You accompanied the disciples on the road to Emmaus, stay with us and accompany us on our journey to the House of Your Father. Open our hearts to true conversion and make us witnesses of Your new and eternal life. Send us as heralds of the repentance and forgiveness You offer to all through the power of Your passion, death and Resurrection.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE SIXTH STATION

**JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF
IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “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 inside us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us.’” (Lk. 24: 29-32)

Reflection: The encounter on the road leads to the table – to the Breaking of the Bread – the Eucharist. Recognition of Jesus is always linked to the Eucharist. At the heart of our Faith is the Liturgy of the Eucharist – the Breaking of the Bread. The Risen Lord presides over all our journeys, wishing to set our hearts on fire in the service of His Church. The gift we have received, we are to share with all those we meet on our journey to the House of our Father.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, You are truly present in the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Help us always recognize You in the Eucharist. May our hearts burn with love for You. May the Eucharist we celebrate guide us to the fullness of life in the House of Your Father.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE SEVENTH STATION

THE RISEN LORD APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES AND GRANTS THEM THE POWER TO FORGIVE SINS



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “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)

Reflection: Even though the doors to the upper room were locked and bolted, the risen Lord appeared to the Apostles, destroying their fear and bringing them His gift of peace and forgiveness. The risen Jesus also breathed on the Apostles giving them the authority to forgive sins in His name - bringing that gift of peace down through the ages. Jesus is the source of all peace and forgiveness. He calls us to repentance and conversion so that we can experience the peace and joy that the world cannot give.

**All: Risen Lord Jesus, as You brought peace and forgiveness to Peter and the Apostles,
You offer us that same peace and forgiveness through the Sacrament of
Reconciliation which You instituted on that night of Easter. May we always seek
the power of Your peace and forgiveness rooted in the gift and power of absolution
which You bestowed upon Your Church on the night of Easter.**

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE EIGHTH STATION

JESUS CONFIRMS THE FAITH OF THOMAS



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “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 said to him, ‘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 all those who do not see and yet believe.’” (Jn. 20:24-29)

Reflection: The story of Thomas is important because it is through Thomas’ example that we realize that doubt can be an occasion leading us to faith. Too easily we call him “Doubting Thomas,” and forget that after examining the wounds, he fully embraced the Risen Lord. Thomas’ doubt was transformed into living faith. We too are called to believe, knowing full well that our faith – from time to time – may be tested by fear and doubt. As disciples of the Risen Lord, we are called in this Station to be patient and understanding with those who are struggling and searching like Thomas.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, You revealed Yourself to Thomas and called him from the darkness of doubt, to a deep profession of faith in Your Resurrection. May each one of us come to a profound experience of the power of Your holy Resurrection. May we live in union with You in Your kingdom on earth, and look forward to joy of living with You in the fullness of Your Resurrection in the House of Your Father.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE NINTH STATION

THE RISEN LORD EATS WITH THE APOSTLES ON THE SHORE OF TIBERIAS



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “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. As day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not recognize Him. He said to them, ‘Cast your net to the right side of the boat and you will find something.’”
(Jn. 21:10-12)

Reflection: After the crucifixion, the Apostles returned to their former way of life. Out on the familiar Sea of Galilee, the expert fishermen find themselves ineffective and confused because not even one fish was caught. From the shore, the Risen Lord guides them and directs their nets until they are filled to overflowing. As He prepares breakfast for them, He nourishes their hearts and souls and promises them they can also be fed by making disciples in His name. He calls them to a new way of fishing – fishing for the hearts and souls of humanity.

**All: Risen Lord Jesus, as You fed Your Apostles on shore of the Sea of Tiberias, feed us
always with Your gift of the Holy Eucharist – Your sacred Body and Blood. Give us
food to strengthen us on our journey to the House of Your Father and make us
witnesses of Your new and eternal life.**

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE TENTH STATION

JESUS FORGIVES PETER AND COMMISSIONS HIM



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “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 a third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ Peter was hurt because He said to him a third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My sheep.’” (Jn. 21:15-17)

Reflection: The Risen Lord directs His attention to Peter whose embarrassing three-fold denial was still ringing in his heart. The questions posed by Jesus helped Peter to find reconciliation and to embrace his mission to tend and feed His sheep. This encounter reminds us that forgiveness is always available, even for the most serious mistakes of our lives. This warm embrace of forgiveness strengthens our resolve to be reconcilers in our lives.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with the fire of Your love. Thank You for Your gift of forgiveness and Your peace. Help us to be reconcilers in our own lives to those who have offended us. May the of reconciliation which You have given to our Church lead us to the fullness of life in the House of Your Father.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE ELEVENTH STATION

THE RISEN LORD COMMISSIONS HIS DISCIPLES



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. Jesus said to them, ‘Go therefore, and make disciples of all 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 know that I am with you always, until the end of time.’” (Mt. 28:19-20)

Reflection: From the mountaintop, the Risen Lord gave the “Great Commission” to the disciples to reach out to the ends of the earth. We realize that we are the recipients of this mission. Our ancestors embraced the faith of the Apostles, who were the original witnesses of the Resurrection. Our response to this gift of Faith is our decision to live in union with the Risen Lord and to re-evaluate every aspect of our lives in terms of the values of the Kingdom of God.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, as You commissioned Your Apostles to make disciples of all nations, You also commission each one of us, in our baptism, to do the same. Fill our hearts with the fire of Your love. Strengthen us in the power of the Holy Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations, to obey what You have commanded us, and to know that You are with us always until the end of the world.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE TWELFTH STATION

JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “So then the Lord Jesus, after He spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took His place at the right hand of the Father. The disciples went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with and confirmed the word through accompanying signs and miracles.” (Mk. 16:19-20).

Reflection: The event of the Ascension is not a story of sadness. While still looking up at the skies, the disciples were consoled by the continuing presence of the Risen Lord. They returned to the Upper Room, with Mary, the Mother of the Lord, to pray in anticipation of their mission. We join the original disciples as we continue to implore the Risen Lord to be the center of our lives and the center of the life of His Church.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, fill us with Your power and Your hope. Enlighten our minds and hearts so that we may come to a deeper understanding of Your greatness and Your power. In that strength, may we boldly proclaim the good news of Your life-giving Resurrection to everyone.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

MARY AND THE DISCIPLES KEEP VIGIL IN THE UPPER ROOM AWAITING THE HOLY SPIRIT



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “When they entered the city of Jerusalem, 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.” (Acts 1:13-14)

Reflection: After the Ascension of Jesus, Mary and the Apostles gathered in prayer awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit of Pentecost. We too look to the Upper Room as the place to return over and over again; for we too are called to prayer and contemplation of the marvelous things that God has done for us. We too must keep vigil for the coming of the Risen Lord, with the flame of faith alive in our hearts. Only the Risen Lord can refresh and renew us in mind and in spirit.

All: Risen Lord Jesus, as Your Church gathers in prayerful worship like the first disciples and Mary in the Upper Room, grant that we too may be filled with the gifts of Your most Holy Spirit. May we 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 that we may rejoice in the glory of his Resurrection.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

THE RISEN LORD JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT



Priest: We adore You O Christ and we praise You!

**All: Because by the power of Your Holy Cross
And the light of Your Glorious Resurrection,
You have redeemed the world!**

Priest: “Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the house where they were staying. 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 the Holy Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”
(Acts 2:2-4)

Reflection: The Holy Spirit drove the Apostles from the Upper Room into the streets of Jerusalem. The Spirit compelled them to take the message everywhere, in places familiar and unfamiliar, not stopping until they reach the ends of the earth. We have been given that same Holy Spirit. We too are called to be Apostles, evangelizers and witnesses, near and far wherever we go. The Holy Spirit goes before us, preparing the way and strengthening our hearts to be generous servants of the Risen Lord.

All: Risen Lord Jesus Christ, through this spiritual journey of light, You have reminded us of the fullness of the power of Your Resurrection and its effects on our lives. May the Holy Spirit of Pentecost come to rest forever in our hearts and disperse the divisions that exist among us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we sing Your praise with one mind and one heart. May we praise the glory and power of Your holy Resurrection until we meet You Your kingdom to be with You forever in new risen life.

O RISEN LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON US AND SAVE US!

CONCLUSION

Priest: “ ... Jesus Himself, through them, sent forth from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Amen.” (Mark 16:8)

Reflection: 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 Savior taught us:

All: “Our Father...”

Priest: 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.

All: Amen.