

The Way of Light: The 14 Stations of the Resurrection.

1. Jesus rises from the dead –The Resurrection.

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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 on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing 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, for 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." *Matthew 28:1-7.*

Reflection

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is revealed to two of his closest female disciples who are mourning his death: Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. This miracle is revealed to them by an Angel dressed in dazzling white sitting ready to share the Good News. The empty tomb points to the overcoming of all limits, the transformation of suffering and death, the reconciliation of all conflicts. Through faith in the living Christ, we are invited to share his now Cosmic life, breaking out into our still fragmented world.

***Jesus Christ is the light of the World!
A light no darkness can overpower!
Amen.***



"Mary Magdalene Discovering the Empty Tomb" by Herschel Pollard ©. c.2012.

2. The disciples find the empty tomb.

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." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths 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 there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. *John 20:1-9*.

Reflection

John and Peter run to the tomb and see the burial cloth. A light is dawning, faith is kindled but is yet to flame forth in all its fullness. The Scriptures have yet to be opened up, even to those closest to the crucified and now risen Jesus. Our whole lives are a journey into faith and light, and along the way, all of us need the help of the Spirit. The Spirit comes to us in many forms: as teachers and pastors; witnesses to truth and justice; daily acts of love and compassion; friendship and solidarity. May we recognise and welcome them in every age.

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Apostles Peter and John hurry to the tomb on the morning of the Resurrection.
Eugène Burnand. 1898. Musée d'Orsay, Paris.

3. Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene.

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, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, 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 seeking?" 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 Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her. *John 20:11-18.*

Reflection

When Jesus calls out Mary's name he reveals, beyond the transformation that has taken place, the importance and abiding significance of the ties of friendship and love they had shared. Now, she herself is being called to a new role. She is to reveal the reality of his living presence to the other disciples. Jesus commissions her to be the apostle to the apostles. There is no nostalgia for the past, or clinging on to what had been, but a call to a new living relationship with him and his young community, who will need the witness of her faithful love.

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Mary Magdalene and Christ the Gardener. Kelly Latimore. <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/en-gb>

4. Jesus walks with the disciples to Emmaus.

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were 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 recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that 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 have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, 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. *Luke 24:13-27.*

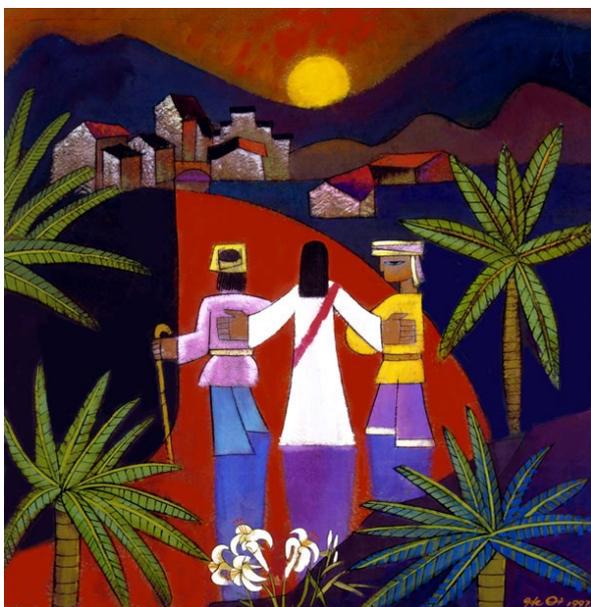
Reflection

Week by week as we gather to listen to the Scriptures proclaimed in the Eucharist and opened up for us by the preacher, we are invited into a living relationship with the Word made flesh. Year by year we come as individuals and communities from the present context of our daily reality. The context changes, our lives keep changing. There are times of war and peace, sickness and health, good and bad years, but always we can encounter the living Christ in our midst. In the depths of God's merciful, creative love revealed in his Word we are transformed, and then we are sent out to transform the world.

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Amen



Emmaus Road. He Qui. 1997. www.heqiart.com/

5. Jesus is recognised in the breaking of bread.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay 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 he vanished from 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?" *Luke 24:28-33.*

Reflection

The practice of Jesus' open table fellowship runs throughout his ministry – all are welcome to eat and drink with the Lord. At the Last Supper he interprets his living and dying in a model that we continue to repeat in the Eucharist. And here, in this unique event, the first of his post-Resurrection meals, are the memories that finally open the eyes of the two disciples to their companion and Lord. The memory of Jesus' life, teaching and actions is the basis for our own weekly interpretation of God's saving plan - revealed in the Scriptures and now at work in our time.

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Emmaus Supper. Fr Maximino Cerezo Barredo CMF. 2002.

6. Jesus appears to the disciples in the Upper Room.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked 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 has sent me, even so I am sending 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 them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." *John 20:19-23.*

Reflection

The encounters of the Risen Christ with the fearful disciples huddled in the Upper Room lead not only to understanding but to courage, insight and a new commission. In the deep peace, the *shalom*, that the Spirit will bring, they are called to go out and continue Jesus' reconciling work in the world. Reconciling men, women and children to each other and to their God. As the Church today, we exist above all to continue this reconciling work across the globe.

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Christ Taking Leave of the Apostles. Duccio. c.1310. Museo dell'Opera del Duomo (Siena).

7. Jesus strengthens the faith of Thomas.

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 mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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 disbelieve, but believe." 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 have believed." *John 20:24-29.*

Reflection

Thomas' doubt was the fruit of profound attachment to his Lord who he had seen destroyed. He doesn't want to believe in the Resurrection simply because the other disciples tell him to, he wants to have his own encounter with Christ. Jesus' risen presence provokes a profound renewal of relationship and a response of even deeper faith in Thomas. The risen Lord, in taking us where we are, engages us in the depths of our lives, however conflicted, and out of that engagement, light, truth and wholeness can emerge.

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The Incredulity of Thomas. Caravaggio. 1601-02. Sanssouci Palace, Potsdam, Germany.

8. Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Galilee

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 shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have 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, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. 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 in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

John 21:1-14.

Reflection

In the days of fear and confusion after Jesus' cruel death the disciples return to what they know – fishing. And then, after a fruitless night's work a stranger tells them to cast the nets once more. The bumper catch and the stranger preparing them a meal on the beach recalls the miracles they had witnessed, the meals they had shared, and suddenly they see their Lord. Now they share in a new life that will have universal consequences symbolised in the text by the reference to the 153 fish caught. This was regarded as the number of nations of the earth at that time. The mission was about to begin.

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Amen.



Miraculous Catch. Artist unknown.

9. Jesus forgives and commissions Peter.

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." He said to him a second time, "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. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me." *John 21:15-19.*

Reflection

Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. Peter is confused as to why Jesus needs to repeat the question, having buried the memory that he had denied him three times before he was crucified. Jesus is inviting Peter to remember his need to be forgiven so that he can receive mercy and be commissioned to shepherd the Church as its forgiven servant leader. Once again, Jesus models the form that leadership must take - Peter's primacy and all true leadership in the Church, must be at the service of mercy and reconciliation. Peter can only follow Jesus when he understands his ministry in this light.

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Feed my sheep. Artist unknown.

10. Jesus commissions the disciples to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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 behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:16-20*

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." *Luke 24:44-49.*

Reflection

The ultimate mission of Jesus is finally revealed as universal. He sends out his disciples, who are still conflicted, still processing the reality of all that they had experienced since meeting Jesus. And so "some doubted" despite everything Jesus had taught them before and after his Resurrection. However, he continues to promise his presence among them which they will soon experience in the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost. On that day, they will be his witnesses – not only in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, but to the ends of the earth. Today the Gospel is proclaimed in every country on our planet, the mission continues.

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Jesus with his Disciples. Andrey Mironov. 2016.

11. Jesus ascends into heaven.

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 that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, 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." *Acts 1:6-11.*

Reflection

At the Transfiguration the three disciples saw the glory of Jesus anticipated in the presence of Moses and Elijah. There they wanted to stay and build a shrine for all his disciples to see, and where they could come and worship. At that time Jesus led them along a different path, into the messy everyday world, to which his Gospel is addressed, to transform it. So now he is seen in another light – forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus is taken from the disciples into the heavenly realm. His earthly mission is over and his cosmic mission begins. And they are directed back into the world to be the agents of change and transformation. In the Spirit, the disciples will proclaim Christ's teachings, and heal and reconcile, until he returns at the end of time.

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Saint James the Greater Catholic Church (Concord, North Carolina) - stained glass, Ascension.

12. Mary and the disciples await the Holy Spirit.

Then they 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 were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. *Acts 1:12-14.*

Reflection

Mary remained with the disciples in Jerusalem praying and waiting for the outpouring of the Spirit. Since receiving Jesus' words on the Cross to her and John the Beloved Disciple, she entered a new relationship with the early community. From the earliest times, she therefore became seen as Mother of this community. Pope Paul VI named her as Mother of the Church at the Second Vatican Council in 1964, and Pope Francis asked us to keep that feast, every year, on the day after Pentecost. Across the ages she remains a source of consolation, inspiration and a reminder of the humanity of her son, Jesus, our Lord.

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Mary and the Apostles wait nine days for the coming of the Spirit. Artist unknown.

13. Jesus sends the promised Spirit at Pentecost.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested 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 was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"
Acts 2:1-12.

Reflection

The presence of the Spirit in the form of wind and fire speaks of a powerful presence. It echoes the breath of God at creation, bringing all life into being and giving purpose and consciousness to what God has made. The capacity to communicate between and across all nations reverses the chaos at Babel. Flames rest on each of the apostles – men and women including Jesus' mother, Mary. All are called to this new life - renewed ministry among God's creation. The languages and cultures that so often divide us are seen in their rich diversity here. Everyone shares God's message now. Pentecost is the beginning of a new earth and a new heaven. Eden is restored as the Spirit continues to work with all who would collaborate.

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Pentecost. Jen Norton. 2020. www.jennortonartstudio.com/pentecost-and-the-holy-spirit/

14. The faithful are called to live in the light of the Resurrection.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *Colossians 1:13*.

... for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true) and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. *Ephesians 5:8-10*.

Reflection

We have all been baptised in the Spirit who enables us to enter the life of the Father and the Son. Through the Cross we have been rescued from slavery and freed to live in God's light. Having been welcomed and reconciled ourselves we know the joy of this truth, and we are called to continue the healing work of Christ in the world. Like those who have gone before us in faith, whose communion we share, we step out to work and live alongside anyone who needs our care. We trust in whatever means the Spirit will provide and give thanks for the light of Christ that dwells within us along the way.

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Resurrection Icon. Sophie Hacker. 1998.

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