



## **14 Stations of the Risen Lord**

### **A Liturgy of Our Resurrection Journey**

Today's liturgy recognizes 13 recorded appearances of the Risen Lord and one which is not recorded but thought by many theologians to be probable. It is therefore a summary of the Easter Season and brings us boldly to the celebration of Pentecost.

## Opening Music and Welcome!



### Station 1 DISCOVERY OF THE EMPTY TOMB

John 20:1-10

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to their homes.

On the first day of the week, at the dawning of the new creation, Jesus arose from the dead. No one saw the event, yet like the apostles, we are called to be witnesses. The light and power of Christ's death and resurrection have become the pattern for our living. May we recognize Christ's dying and rising in our midst. The empty tomb was not only proof of the resurrection but a silent witness of the greatest event of our faith. Seeing the empty tomb, the disciples were motivated to seek the Risen Lord at work in their midst. They saw and believed in the continuing presence of the Lord of love. All the empty and lonely places of human life are precisely where the Lord wishes to work and be revealed.



### Station 14 THE HOLY SPIRIT AT PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

The power of the Holy Spirit drives the disciples from the Upper Room into the streets and marketplace. The Spirit compels them to take the message everywhere, in places familiar and unfamiliar, not stopping until they reach the ends of the world. The same Spirit calls us to bear witness, near and far. May the Spirit always go before us, preparing the way and strengthening our hearts to be generous servants of the Risen Lord. As we leave worship today, we sing of the Spirit and the power it must have in our lives. We implore the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth and the spirit of community by renewing us.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, you sent your son to die for us and to save us from sin. Hear us, O Lord, as we pray to you in our imperfection. We fail to heed your Word. We fail to follow you in love and forgiveness. We take your sacrifice for granted. Remind us today as we remember your Son's last days with us on earth of the wonderful promise of heaven which awaits the faithful. We pray in the name of the Risen Lord. Amen

### HYMN

Low in the grave He lay—  
Jesus, my Savior!  
Waiting the coming day—  
Jesus, my Lord!

**Up from the grave He arose  
With a mighty triumph  
o'er His foes.  
He arose the victor  
from the dark domain  
And He lives forever  
with His saints to reign  
Her arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

Vainly they watch His bed—  
Jesus, my Savior!  
Vainly they seal the dead—  
Jesus, my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey—  
Jesus, my Savior!  
He tore the bars away—  
Jesus, my Lord!

### HYMN

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading,  
fashion us all anew  
It's your leading that we're needing,  
help us to follow you.

**Come, come,  
come, Holy Spirit, come (x2)**

Keep us fervent in our witness  
Unswayed by earth's allure  
Ever grant us zealous fitness,  
which you alone assure.

**Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come (x2)**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lord, we lift your name on high  
Lord, we love to sing your praises  
We're so glad you're in our lives  
We're so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth  
to show the way  
From the earth to the cross  
Our debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave  
From the grave to the sky.  
Lord, we lift your name on high.

REPEAT FREELY

### HYMN

Mine eyes have seen the glory  
of the coming of the Lord,  
He is trampling out the vintage  
where the grapes of wrath are  
stored;  
He has loosed the fateful lightning of  
His terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet  
that shall never call retreat  
He is sifting out the hearts of men  
before His judgment seat  
O be swift, my soul to answer Him  
be jubilant my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies  
Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in his bosom  
that transfigures you and me.  
As he died to make men holy  
let us live to make men free  
While God is marching on.



### Station 13 JESUS ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN

Acts 1:6-11

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

And so the story comes full circle. Christ comes to us and dies and returns to us, breaking the shackles of death. Suddenly, He leaves us again, but He does not leave us without hope. Two angels appear with a New Testament prophecy. He will come again. The disciples have just seen Him leave earth and rise into heaven, but the story does not end there. How easy it would be to leave the disciples to grieve the loss of their Savior. But the Scriptures do not portray the Ascension as a day of sadness. While still looking up at the skies, the disciples were consoled by the continuing presence of the Lord. They returned to the familiar surroundings of the Upper Room, with Mary, the mother of the Lord, to pray in anticipation of their mission. We continue to implore the Risen Lord to be the center of our lives and to keep us focused as joyful servants.



### Station 2 THE ANGEL SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

Luke 24:4-8

While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.

The angel gives us certainty and hope and courage. At last we hear and can know with absolute certainty, The Lord has risen indeed. We are reminded how forgetful we can be of all we have already received: the past and all the clues it gives for our future, the messages it offers, the evidence of grace. All there is that can contribute creatively to any situation in the present.

We are challenged too: Why look among the dead? Look at the life around teeming all around us. Do not cling to a past none of us can remember. Look to the future. Look to the circumstances we face today! But enough for now. Can we really take it in, and can we let our mouths praise and our hearts sing?

### Prayer

Father, you know us so well. You know we struggle to understand even when you have told us exactly what is going on. You know we need help to understand. Lord, we thank You for your patience with us and for the gifts of courage to accept the challenges of being your disciples. Amen

### HYMN

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime

When the woes of life o'er take me  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy  
Never shall the cross forsake me.  
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross, the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day

Bane and blessing, Pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified.  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.



**Station 3**

**JESUS IS SEEN BY HIS MOTHER MARY**

*This station is not scriptural but the possibility has inspired the spiritual for centuries.*

"Here it is how, after Christ had risen body and soul from the sepulcher, he appears to his blessed mother." She had brought him to birth, raised him, and had stood by him through the passion. Now he wants to share with her the joy of his resurrection."

St. Ignatius Loyola (The spiritual exercises 219)

In Acts 3 we read that Jesus appeared to many other people. Many church scholars, including some of the earliest church leaders and such noted theologians as Ignatius Loyola, could not imagine that our Lord did not appear to his beloved mother. We know that she was often with the gathered disciples. Could she have been with them behind the locked doors at one of Jesus' last visits? We do not know. The Bible doesn't tell us so.

Some have argued that it is a spiritual and psychological necessity. Others might claim it is common sense. How could Jesus return to his disciples and not visit His mother! Their bond was as intimate as any mother and son, perhaps more so because of the great mystery which enveloped Mary's life from her youth. So today we ponder the possibility that Jesus appeared to Mary in his resurrected form, just as scholars before us have dwelt on this unanswered question of scripture.



**Station 12**

**THE CONVERSION OF PAUL**

Acts 9:3-9

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

St. Paul, wrote of this life-changing event in one of his letters to the Corinthians. He wrote, "and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it." Significantly, he makes no distinction between this appearance of the Risen Lord and those that took place immediately after that first Easter Morning, for Jesus is beyond time and the encounter with Him is always in the now, in the eternal present. So last of all Jesus appears to us, to you and me. We too are part of the unfolding story of Jesus' revelation to his creation, the continuing gospel.

**INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE:**

What Wondrous Love Is This?

**Prayer**

Savior, Christmas seems so far away and yet it is good to remember the miracle which brought You to us. You, like us, once clung to Your mother's side and honored her even as you set out in the world to fulfill Your mission. Remind us today of the gift of family which weaves one generation to the next so that Your story is always being told to a new generation.

We pray that we can be faithful sharers of the Good News, first with our own families and then to the world. Amen

**Prayer**

God of grace, we give thanks for Your Son's presence among us even before You created the world. Pour down Your Spirit upon us that we may, like Paul, come to know You more fully.

We give thanks to You for entrusting us with the care of your awesome creation. Guide us in faithfully respecting all life.

We pray that Your healing hand will fall upon all who suffer, those among us and those in distant lands.

Bless your servants and empower them with the Holy Spirit that may do Your will.

Bless our nation and leadership. Be with the peacemakers and strengthen those who are charged with duty of defending us. Bless the memory of all countrymen and women who sacrificed their lives for the peace and prosperity of others.

Be with those who serve us in life's most trying times — doctors and nurses, policemen and firemen, counselors and social workers.

Be with all our families as we enter the summer months. Watch over us as we work, travel and vacation. Be with our children, that the summer will refresh them for greater learning and lives of service. Use the summer to open their hearts and minds to new discoveries of the world and their place in it.

We ask for all of this in the name of our Risen Lord.

**HYMN: Lord's Prayer**

**HYMN**

O Zion, haste,  
thy mission high fulfilling  
To tell to all the world  
that God is light;  
That he who made  
all nations is not willing  
One soul should perish  
lost in shades of night.

**Publish glad tidings,  
tidings of peace;  
Tidings of Jesus,  
redemption and release.**

Proclaim to every people,  
tongue, and nation  
That God, in whom  
they live and move, is love;  
Tell how he stooped  
to save his lost creation,  
And died on earth  
that man might live above.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of  
all things, You have blessed us with  
your goodness; You have given us  
our selves, our time, and our pos-  
sessions. May our gifts be used in  
the care and healing of all that You  
have made, for the sake of the one  
who gave himself for us. Jesus



**Station 11  
JESUS ON THE MOUNTAIN IN GALILEE**

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

From the mountaintop, the Risen Lord gives the "Great Commission" to the disciples to reach out to the ends of the earth. We realize that we are the recipients of this faith-filled mission: our ancestors embraced the faith of the apostles, who were the original witnesses of the resurrection. The greatest response we can give to such a legacy is our dedication to a new evangelization of our contemporary culture. We must allow the Risen Lord to reinvigorate our whole way of living, helping us to re-evaluate every aspect of our lives with the values of the Kingdom of God.



**Station 4  
JESUS SPEAKS TO MARY MAGDALENE**

John 20:11-18

But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Once again in the gospel story women are the first messengers of the good news. As Mary and Elizabeth were the first to tell the story of Jesus birth, Mary Magdalene is now the first to encounter the Risen Lord. Two thousand years later there is much speculation about just who Mary Magdalene was. The Bible record is not definitive. She is clearly entrusted with the most important message God was ever to send to his people. And her status is such that she is named in the biblical record.

**Prayer**

As we enter the season of Pentecost, help us to be like Mary Magdalene and be messengers of the Word. Empower us with the strength of our convictions, that Jesus suffered, died and rose again for our sake. Help us to tell the story of Jesus love. Amen

**HYMN**

I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory,  
of Jesus and His love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.

**I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and His love.**

I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.



**Station 5**  
**THE DENIAL OF THE RESURRECTION**  
 Matthew 28:11-15

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

The forces that threaten are now before us. Bribery, lying, deceit all are brought into play, corrupting both the soldiers and those who seek to hide the truth. What dangers lurk? What within or without will seek to undermine the truth? What may challenge the full power of the Resurrection? What denies us and our society the possibilities and potential of this transforming love? Where do faith, hope and trust fall short? Many forces whisper here, counseling expediency, telling us that the end justifies the means, bringing out the doubt and fear that will eat away at our integrity, the love that we already know. Evil has many masks and with love and truth we will learn to recognize them. Whatever frailty or uncertainty hamper our lives, we also need to know that ultimately nothing lies outside the power of joy of the Resurrection, nothing detracts from our call to be an Easter people. Nothing will stop our Alleluia song.



**Station 10**  
**PETER PROFFESSES HIS FAITH AND LOVE**

John 21:15-19

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

The Risen Lord directs His attention to Peter whose embarrassing three-fold denial was still ringing in his heart. The questions posed by Jesus help Peter to find reconciliation and to embrace his new mission to tend and feed the sheep. Peter denied Christ three times. Peter here affirms Christ three times. Forgiveness and reconciliation has conquered sin. This encounter reminds us that forgiveness is always available, even for our most serious mistakes. This warm embrace of forgiveness strengthens our resolve to be reconcilers and healers in the Spirit of Jesus. Only love can overcome guilt and deception. Only love and forgiveness can make us whole.

**Prayer**

O merciful Father, what temptations are before us! We look for explanations for what we do not understand and often find satisfaction in the explanations of the world. We resist the truth almost as if it is too wonderful to be true. Help us to accept the gift of the resurrection in all of its glory. When we feel worthless, make us worthy heirs of Your love. Amen

**HYMN**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Give thanks to the risen Lord**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Give praise to His name.**

Jesus is Lord of all the earth  
 He is the King of Creation

Come, let us praise the living God  
 Joyfully sing to our Savior



**Station 9**  
**JESUS APPEARS AT THE SEA OF GALILEE**

John 21:1-14

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

And just like that, it's all over. After the crucifixion, the apostles return to their former ways of life. But things aren't going so well. Out on the familiar Sea of Galilee, these expert fishermen can't catch a single fish! 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 promises them that they can also be fed by making disciples in His name. He calls them to an entirely new way of fishing—fishing for people.



**Station 6**  
**JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES AT EMMAUS**

Luke 24:13-35

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they

crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted

as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

The Emmaus road is the story of the Christian life. These disciples were walking away from Jerusalem and the apostolic faith community in defeat and dejection. They had lost hope. We too, have moments of despair and desolation. The Risen Lord Jesus accompanies us along the road, even when we are moving in the wrong direction. Only the Lord can "break open" the Word in order to help us understand. Only the Lord can rekindle our energy and our resolve to devote ourselves to what is most important in life.

**Prayer**

O God, creator of this world, come to us in our ordinary lives. Be with us in our daily work so that our lives can be a witness of your loving kindness. Amen

**HYMN**

**2 verses**

Break Thou the bread of life,  
 Dear Lord, to me,  
 As Thou didst break the loaves  
 beside the sea  
 Beyond the sacred page,  
 I seek thee, Lord  
 My spirit pants for Thee,  
 O Living Word.

Blest Thou the truth dear Lord,  
 To me, to me  
 As Thou didst bless the bread  
 by Galilee.  
 Then shall all bondage cease.  
 All fetters fall.  
 And I shall find my peace,  
 My All in all.

**Prayer**

Trusted Shepherd and Friend, come to us when we are tempted to walk away. Be with us when we struggle to understand. Lead us, Lord. Guide us. Amen

**HYMN**

Abide with me,  
fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens,  
Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail  
and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless,  
O abide with me.

I need Thy presence  
every passing hour.  
What but Thy grace  
can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like Thyself,  
my Guide, and Stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine,  
O abide with me.

**Prayer**

Come to us Lord, as you came to the disciples. We do not need to see your hands and side for we can see Your love. Open our hearts, Lord, and stay with us, bringing us your peace. Amen

**HYMN**

Into my heart, into my heart  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus  
Come in today, come into stay  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.  
REPEAT 3x



**Station 7**  
**JESUS APPEARS IN THE LOCKED ROOM**

John 20:19-21a

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Even though the doors of the Upper Room were bolted shut, the Risen Lord pierced through all fear and united the hearts of the disciples with the gift of peace. Deep inner peace is the root and source of the peace and joy that the world cannot give. The Risen Lord calls us to seek peace always through a nonviolent commitment to conflict resolution and thus transform the world, relationship by relationship.



**Station 8**  
**JESUS SPEAKS TO THOMAS**

John 20:24-29

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though 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; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

It is through Thomas' example that we realize that doubt can be a part of faith. Too easily we call him "Doubting Thomas," and forget that after examining the nail marks, he fully embraced the Risen One as his Lord and Savior. Thomas's doubt was transformed into a lively faith. His words spoken upon recognizing Jesus are one of the first and most enduring creeds of the church: My Lord and my God.

We too, are called to believe, knowing full well that our faith may be tested by doubt and fear. As disciples who desire an ever-deepening faith, we are patient and understanding with those who are struggling, searching and seeking like Thomas.

**Prayer**

Steadfast Father, use our doubts to bring us to deeper understanding. Make our weaknesses stepping stones in our faith journey so that even our strongest doubts can be turned to profound faith for the glory of Your kingdom. Amen

**HYMN**

He is Lord, He is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead  
and He is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every  
tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord

REPEAT TWICE  
THEN CHANGE KEY AND  
REPEAT TO END  
Jesus Christ is Lord!