

We keep Lent well for forty days and sustain the Lenten theme in many ways. **Easterime**, lasting from the Easter Vigil until the evening of Pentecost Sunday, lasts for fifty days. It is known as the **GREAT FIFTY DAYS**. We have more to celebrate in the Resurrection of Jesus than we do in Lent. Yet somehow the season can lose its impetus. One development in recent years has been the **Stations of the Resurrection**, also known as the *Via Lucis – the Way of Light*. These moments of prayer are similar to the Way of the Cross, but rather celebrate the new life the Risen Christ shares with his people and with us. The Stations rely powerfully on the words of Scripture and so those stories and events speak for themselves. You could pray them all together, use one a day, or concentrate on one or two for a week. As well as the prayers and scriptures we offer the Roman Missal provides prayers for mass on each day of Eastertime that you might find useful as well as the many Easter hymns we have. There's nothing more Eastertime than singing **Alleluia** – and there are so many you can choose.

- Stations of the Resurrection (Via Lucis)**
1. Jesus Rises From the Dead (Matthew 28:1-10)
 2. The Finding of the Empty Tomb (John 20:1-10)
 3. The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18)
 4. Jesus Appears on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-27)
 5. Jesus is Known at the Breaking of Bread (Luke 24:28-35)
 6. Jesus Appears to His Disciples in Jerusalem (Luke 24:36-43)
 7. Jesus Gives the Disciples the Power to Forgive Sins (John 20:19-23)
 8. Jesus Strengthens the Faith of Thomas (John 20:24-29)
 9. Jesus Appears by the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-14)
 10. Jesus Tell Peter to Feed His Sheep (Primacy of Peter) (John 21:15-17, 19b)
 11. Jesus Commissions the Disciples on the Mountain (Matthew 28:16-20)
 12. Jesus Ascends into Heaven (Acts 1:6-12a)
 13. Mary and the Disciples Wait in Prayer (Acts 1:12-14)
 14. The Holy Spirit Descends at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)

The Vatican *Directory on Popular Devotion* describes these Stations of Light as a powerful way to celebrate the *culture of life*. [n.153] Each Station holds out that hope for renewed life to a world that can often seem to be marred by so many tragedies, disasters and the effects of human evil.

- The Church of England** has formally included this devotion in a different form. See their website *Common Worship Times and Seasons [pp443ff] for Easter* (including prayers, readings, etc).
- I The earthquake Matthew 28.2-4
 - II Mary Magdalene finds the empty tomb John 20.1,2
 - III The disciples run to the empty tomb John 20.3-8
 - IV The angel appears to the women Matthew 28.5-8 or Mark 16.3-8 or Luke 24.2-9
 - V Jesus meets the women Matthew 28.9,10
 - VI The road to Emmaus Luke 24.28-35
 - VII Jesus appears to the disciples Luke 24.36-43 or John 20.19,20
 - VIII Jesus promises the Spirit Luke 24.44-49
 - IX Jesus commissions the disciples John 20.21-23
 - X Jesus breathes the Spirit in the upper room John 20.22,23
 - XI Jesus reveals himself to Thomas John 20.24-29
 - XII Jesus appears at the lakeside John 21.9-13
 - XIII Jesus confronts Peter John 21.15-19
 - XIV Jesus and the beloved disciple John 21.20-23
 - XV Jesus appears to over five hundred at once 1 Corinthians 15.3-6
 - XVI Jesus commissions the disciples on the mountain Matthew 28.16-20
 - XVII The ascension Acts 1.3-11
 - XVIII Pentecost Acts 2.1-11
 - XIX Jesus appears to Saul (Paul) Acts 9.1-18 or 1 Corinthians 15.8

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION (VIA LUCIS)

Short Form

Each station uses a scripture passage [New Jerusalem Bible] and a prayer taken from Opening Prayers [ICEL 1997]. This is a shorter form, with abbreviated passages of scripture.

There are many Easter hymns which can be used, never forgetting that ALLELUIA is our Easter song.

Begin each station with an invitation such as

- Let us rejoice and be glad, Alleluia - THE LORD IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA

As you pray each station take the opportunity to pray for particular needs – *for all caught in the Covid crisis, for those who now wait to be baptised, received, confirmed, to celebrate First Communion, to be married or ordained and any other intentions that individuals want to present.*

Remember too the season asks us to reflect on our baptism, and to celebrate life.

Water, candles, an empty cross are all signs that could be used.

1. Jesus Rises From the Dead - Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre..... the angel .. said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb suddenly, coming to meet them, was Jesus [who] said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; there they will see me.'

*God of undying life,
by your mighty hand you raised up Jesus from the grave
and appointed him judge of the living and the dead.
Bestow upon those baptised into his death
the power flowing from his resurrection
that we may proclaim near and far
the pardon and peace you give us*

2. The Finding of the Empty Tomb - John 20:1-10

.... Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb.... Simon Peter ... went into the tomb, saw the linen cloths lying on the ground and also the cloth that had been over his headother disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had still not understood the scripture, that he must rise from the dead..

*God of all the prophets,
you fulfilled your promise of old that your Christ would suffer and so rise to glory.
Open our minds to understand the Scriptures
and fill us with joyful wonder in the presence of the risen Christ
that we may be his witnesses to the farthest ends of the earth.*

3. The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalene - John 20:11-18

Mary was standing outside near the tomb, weeping..... she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him.' Jesus said, 'Mary!' She turned round then and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbuni!' -- which means Master.

*O God your saving plan has brought us to the glory of this season.
Slaves, we become your sons and daughters, poor, your mercy makes us rich,
sinners, you count us among your saints.
Bring us to know the place that is ours in the unfolding story of your purpose,
and instil in our hearts the wonder of your salvation.*

4. Jesus Appears on the Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-27

..... two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but their eyes were prevented from recognising him. He said to them, 'What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?', 'All about Jesus of Nazareth,Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free..... [Jesus] said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe all that the prophets have said! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

*O God of mystery, out of death you delivered Christ Jesus,
and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples.
Stir up our faith that our hearts may burn within us at the sound of his word,
and our eyes be opened to recognise him in the breaking of the bread.*

5. Jesus is Known at the Breaking of Bread - Luke 24:28-35

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them saying, 'It is nearly evening, and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

*O God, worker of wonders, you made this day for joy and gladness.
Let the risen Lord abide with us this evening
opening the Scriptures to us and breaking bread in our midst.
Set our hearts aflame and open our eyes, that we may see in his sufferings
all that the prophets spoke and recognise him at this table.*

6. Jesus Appears to His Disciples in Jerusalem - Luke 24:36-43

[Jesus] himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost..... Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

*God of life, in your risen Son you reveal your abiding presence among us
and summon those reborn in baptism to lives of worship and service.
Fill this assembly with reverence as we come before you in prayer.
Grant us courage and zeal in bearing witness before the world
to your Son, Jesus Christ, the first born from the dead*

7. Jesus Gives the Disciples the Power to Forgive Sins - John 20:19-23

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained.

*God of all nations, in the gift of your Son
you have embraced the world with a love that takes away our sin and bestows perfect joy.
Grant to all who have been reborn in baptism
fidelity in serving you and generosity in loving one another.*

8. Jesus Strengthens the Faith of Thomas - John 20:24-29

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, 'We have seen the Lord,' but he answered, 'Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving any more but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

*God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism
you have raised us up in Jesus and given us life that endures.
Day by day refine our faith, that we who have not seen the Christ
may truly confess him as our Lord and God, and share the blessedness of those who believe.*

9. Jesus Appears by the Sea of Tiberias - John 21:1-14

.... It was by the Sea of Tiberias, Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night. When it was already light, there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Haven't you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No,' he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they threw the net out and could not haul it in because of the quantity of fish. The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish.

*Father most holy,
look upon this people whom you have sanctified by the dying and rising of your Son.
Keep us one in love and consecrate us in your truth
that the new life you have given us may bring us to the fullness of joy.*

10. Jesus Tell Peter to Feed His Sheep - John 21:15-17, 19b

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that he asked him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.....'

*God of lasting love,
fulfil your plan of salvation to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world.
Let everyone on earth recognise your Christ as the Good Shepherd,
who freely lays down his life for all to take it up again in power.*

11. Jesus Commissions the Disciples on the Mountain - Matthew 28:16-20

Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

*God of majesty, yours is the power that raised Christ from death,
yours the glory that exalted him to your right hand.
By the mystery of the Ascension sustain our hope as we bear witness to our baptism.
By the perpetual outpouring of your Spirit confirm your Church in its mission of salvation*

12. Jesus Ascends into Heaven - Acts 1:6-12a

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky as he went, when suddenly two men in white were standing beside them, and they said, 'Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go to heaven.'

*God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life
and took him up to the glory of heaven.
Clothe us with power promised from on high
and send us forth to the ends of the earth
as heralds of repentance
and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead*

13. Mary and the Disciples Wait in Prayer - Acts 1:12-14

So from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, they went back to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

*Father, righteous one, your beloved Son prayed
that his disciples in every generation might be one as you and he are one.
Look upon this assembly gathered in his name.
Fulfil in us the prayer of Jesus
and crown our celebration of this paschal season
with your Spirit's gifts of unity and love*

14. The Holy Spirit Descends at Pentecost - Acts 2:1-13

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.....

*Send down, O God, upon your people the flame of your Holy Spirit
and fill with the abundance of your sevenfold gift
the Church you brought forth from your Son's pierced side.
May your life-giving Spirit lend fire to our words and strength to our witness.
Send us forth into the nations of the world
to proclaim with boldness your wondrous work
of raising Christ to your right hand.*

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION (VIA LUCIS)

Longer Form

Each station uses a scripture passage [New Jerusalem Bible] and a prayer taken from Opening Prayers [ICEL 1997]. This form has longer scripture passages. Obviously you can adapt either in any way you want.

There are many Easter hymns which can be used, never forgetting that ALLELUIA is our Easter song.

Begin each station with an invitation such as

- *Let us rejoice and be glad, Alleluia*

- *The Lord is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia*

As you pray each station take the opportunity to pray for particular needs – *for all caught in the CoVid crisis, for those who now wait to be baptised, received, confirmed, to celebrate First Communion, to be married or ordained and any other intentions that individuals want to present.*

Remember too the season asks us to reflect on our baptism, and to celebrate life.

Water, candles, an empty cross are all signs that could be used.

1. Jesus Rises From the Dead - Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And suddenly there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going ahead of you to Galilee; that is where you will see him." Look! I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. And suddenly, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, clasping his feet, they did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; there they will see me.'

*God of undying life,
by your mighty hand you raised up Jesus from the grave
and appointed him judge of the living and the dead.
Bestow upon those baptised into his death
the power flowing from his resurrection
that we may proclaim near and far
the pardon and peace you give us*

2. The Finding of the Empty Tomb - John 20:1-10

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,' she said, 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter, following him, also came up, went into the tomb, saw the linen cloths lying on the ground and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had still not understood the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

*God of all the prophets,
you fulfilled your promise of old that your Christ would suffer and so rise to glory.
Open our minds to understand the Scriptures
and fill us with joyful wonder in the presence of the risen Christ
that we may be his witnesses to the farthest ends of the earth.*

3. The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalene - John 20:11-18

But Mary was standing outside near the tomb, weeping. Then, as she wept, she stooped to look inside, and saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet. They said, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' As she said this she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him.' Jesus said, 'Mary!' She turned round then and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbuni!' -- which means Master. Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to the brothers, and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' So Mary of Magdala told the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and that he had said these things to her.

*O God your saving plan has brought us to the glory of this season.
Slaves, we become your sons and daughters,
poor, your mercy makes us rich,
sinners, you count us among your saints.
Bring us to know the place that is ours in the unfolding story of your purpose,
and instil in our hearts the wonder of your salvation.*

4. Jesus Appears on the Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-27

Now that very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. And it happened that as they were talking together and discussing it, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but their eyes were prevented from recognising him. He said to them, 'What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?' They stopped, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' He asked, 'What things?' They answered, 'All about Jesus of Nazareth, who showed himself a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have now gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they could not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe all that the prophets have said! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

*O God of mystery, out of death you delivered Christ Jesus,
and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples.
Stir up our faith that our hearts may burn within us at the sound of his word,
and our eyes be opened to recognise him in the breaking of the bread.*

5. Jesus is Known at the Breaking of Bread - Luke 24:28-35

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them saying, 'It is nearly evening, and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'The Lord has indeed risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

*O God, worker of wonders, you made this day for joy and gladness.
Let the risen Lord abide with us this evening
opening the Scriptures to us and breaking bread in our midst.
Set our hearts aflame and open our eyes, that we may see in his sufferings
all that the prophets spoke and recognise him at this table.*

6. Jesus Appears to His Disciples in Jerusalem - Luke 24:36-43

They were still talking about all this when he himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts stirring in your hearts? See by my hands and my feet that it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and his feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, as they were dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

*God of life, in your risen Son you reveal your abiding presence among us
and summon those reborn in baptism to lives of worship and service.
Fill this assembly with reverence as we come before you in prayer.
Grant us courage and zeal in bearing witness before the world
to your Son, Jesus Christ, the first born from the dead*

7. Jesus Gives the Disciples the Power to Forgive Sins - John 20:19-23

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained.

*God of all nations, in the gift of your Son
you have embraced the world
with a love that takes away our sin and bestows perfect joy.
Grant to all who have been reborn in baptism
fidelity in serving you and generosity in loving one another.*

8. Jesus Strengthens the Faith of Thomas - John 20:24-29

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, 'We have seen the Lord,' but he answered, 'Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving any more but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

*God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism
you have raised us up in Jesus and given us life that endures.
Day by day refine our faith, that we who have not seen the Christ
may truly confess him as our Lord and God,
and share the blessedness of those who believe.*

9. Jesus Appears by the Sea of Tiberias - John 21:1-14

Later on, Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this. Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night. When it was already light, there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Haven't you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No,' he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they threw the net out and could not haul it in because of the quantity of fish. The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words, 'It is the Lord,' Simon Peter tied his outer garment round him (for he had nothing on) and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net with the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land. As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'. They knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus revealed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

*Father most holy,
look upon this people whom you have sanctified by the dying and rising of your Son.
Keep us one in love and consecrate us in your truth
that the new life you have given us may bring us to the fullness of joy.*

10. Jesus Tell Peter to Feed His Sheep - John 21:15-17, 19b

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that he asked him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. In all truth I tell you, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.' In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

*God of lasting love,
fulfil your plan of salvation to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world.
Let everyone on earth recognise your Christ as the Good Shepherd,
who freely lays down his life for all to take it up again in power.*

11. Jesus Commissions the Disciples on the Mountain - Matthew 28:16-20

Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

*God of majesty, yours is the power that raised Christ from death,
yours the glory that exalted him to your right hand.
By the mystery of the Ascension sustain our hope as we bear witness to our baptism.
By the perpetual outpouring of your Spirit confirm your Church in its mission of salvation*

12. Jesus Ascends into Heaven - Acts 1:6-12a

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky as he went, when suddenly two men in white were standing beside them, and they said, 'Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go to heaven.'

*God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life
and took him up to the glory of heaven.*

*Clothe us with power promised from on high and send us forth to the ends of the earth
as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead*

13. Mary and the Disciples Wait in Prayer - Acts 1:12-14

So from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, they went back to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

*Father, righteous one, your beloved Son prayed
that his disciples in every generation might be one as you and he are one.*

Look upon this assembly gathered in his name.

Fulfil in us the prayer of Jesus

and crown our celebration of this paschal season with your Spirit's gifts of unity and love

14. The Holy Spirit Descends at Pentecost - Acts 2:1-13

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely,' they said, 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome- Jews and proselytes alike -- Cretans and Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.' Everyone was amazed and perplexed; they asked one another what it all meant. Some, however, laughed it off. 'They have been drinking too much new wine,' they said.

*Send down, O God, upon your people the flame of your Holy Spirit
and fill with the abundance of your sevenfold gift*

the Church you brought forth from your Son's pierced side.

May your life-giving Spirit lend fire to our words and strength to our witness.

Send us forth into the nations of the world

*to proclaim with boldness your wondrous work
of raising Christ to your right hand.*