

The **Parish Church of St Faith Great Crosby**

The **Stations** *of the* **Resurrection**



Through Lent and Passiontide there has been a long tradition in the Church of meditating on the events of the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, called the Stations of the Cross. In the latter part of the twentieth century a complementary devotion emerged, possibly from the Iberian peninsula, called the Stations of the Resurrection or the Stations of Joy.

As with the Stations of the Cross, we move from station to station, reading an appropriate Bible passage and meditating on it. By using the resurrection appearances as a focus for reflection and meditation we have an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate the Easter mysteries of the resurrection of our Lord. The resurrection appearances are more than just stories or history, they are a record of personal encounters with our risen Lord, so silence and space at each station enables that encounter to happen today.

The Gathering

A hymn may be sung.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth,
O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

Jesus said,

‘This is indeed the will of my Father,
that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day.’

**God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

First Station: Mary Magdalene finds the empty tomb

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to John (20.1,2)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed 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.'

Reflection or meditation may follow.

Reflection or Silent Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for the love which drew Mary Magdalene to your tomb
to weep over your death.

As you broke into her grief with your death-shattering life,
so reach into our broken hearts with your promise of hope.

To you, Lord Jesus,
reaching into the deepest tombs of our despair,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

Second Station: The disciples run to the empty tomb

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to John (20.3-8)

Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for in you our God reveals the awesome power of love
that is stronger even than death.

As in your dying you destroyed death,
so in your rising may we be raised above
the trials and torments of this world's woe.

To you, Lord Jesus, the fullness of your life revealed in an empty
tomb, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

Third Station: The angel appears to the women

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (28.5-8)

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for your resurrection overturns our expectations of life
and even your closest friends could not see truth before them.
As the angel helped them to grasp your triumph
and overcome their fear, so help us to see your hand at work
through the events that overtake us.
To you, Lord Jesus, whose ways astonish beyond our imagining,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

Fourth Station: Jesus meets the women

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (28.9,10)

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,

for your simple word of greeting

made the hearts of the women leap with joy.

Speak your word of love to those whose hearts are broken, that they too may hear your loving, beckoning call.

To you, Lord Jesus, whose call summons us to life in all its fullness,

be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Fifth Station: The road to Emmaus

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (24.28-35)

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you are with us, even when our eyes are closed to your
companionship.

Walk this day alongside the disconsolate and the despairing,
open their eyes to your gentle illumination,

and let their hearts burn within them at your invisible presence.

To you, Lord Jesus, walking by our side, be honour and glory, now
and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

Sixth Station: Jesus appears to the disciples

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (24.36-43)

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for in your birth you were proclaimed the Prince of Peace,
and in your resurrection you breathe into your people
peace beyond this world's understanding.
Be present, Lord, this day
with those whose lives are disfigured by conflict
and those whose hearts know no peace.
To you, Lord Jesus, true bringer of the peace of heaven, be
honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Seventh Station: Jesus reveals himself to Thomas

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to John (20.24-29)

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt 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 come to believe.'

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you come to us even in our doubting.
Through the sovereign work of your Spirit,
and the loving hands of your people,
continue to reveal yourself where doubt is stronger than faith.
To you, Lord Jesus, whose resurrection body
bears the murderous marks of the cross,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

Eighth Station: Jesus appears at the lakeside

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to John (21.9-13)

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish 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, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for at the lakeside you showed concern for the daily needs of
your disciples.

As you guided them to fill their nets with fish,
so guide all who are hungry till their hunger is satisfied in you.
To you, Lord Jesus, sharing with us the food of faith,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

Ninth Station: Jesus confronts Peter

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to John (21.15-19)

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.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt 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. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for even in the glorious victory of the resurrection
you understood the failure of Peter who denied you.
As you restored him to relationship with you,
remember all who feel downcast and worthless in this world's eyes
and give them a sense of purpose and value.
To you, Lord Jesus, loving us despite our denial,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Tenth Station: The Ascension

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.3-11)

After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for in your ascension you are crowned
King of kings and Lord of lords.

As we worship you on your heavenly throne,
prepare our hearts for the coming of your Spirit.

To you, Lord Jesus, who will come back in the same way
you went up into heaven, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

Eleventh Station: Pentecost

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2.1-11)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, 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 Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'

Reflection or Meditation

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you promised that your disciples
would be baptized with the Holy Spirit
and now we see the fulfilment of your promise.
Fill us afresh with your Spirit today,
revive your Church, and renew the face of the earth.
To you, Lord Jesus, giving to your people the greatest gift of all,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

The Conclusion

If there is no Eucharist, the Lord's Prayer is said here.

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our
Saviour taught us.
Our Father...

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness, that we may seek those things that are above
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

If there is no Eucharist, the following or another blessing may be used:

God the Father,

by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,

strengthen *you* to walk with him in his risen life;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

Amen.

If the Eucharist is to follow, these or other suitable words introduce the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said 'Peace be with you'.

Then were they glad to see the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.