

Year C - Easter

John 20:1-9

Via Lucis - The way of light



The Via Lucis or The Way of Light or Stations of the Resurrection is a prayer ritual that is similar to the Stations of the Cross. This prayer has fourteen stations that focus on the scriptures from the Gospels and New Testament of events that occur between Easter Sunday and Pentecost in which the risen Jesus reveals himself to the disciples and others. These stations are all about the hope and light that Jesus brings! The Via Lucis is a relatively new prayer which was first introduced in 1988 by a Salesian Family Group and was adopted by the Vatican in 2001.

You will need:

- fourteen candles (LED candles are a good option for very small children)
- matches
- a white or gold cloth
- an image or statue or other symbol of the risen Jesus (there is an image included with this prayer that you might like to use that also displays a response for each reflection).

Prayer:

Together with the children, create a special prayer space using these items. Do not light the candles to begin with (these will be lit with each station).

Use the booklet on the following pages to guide you through the prayer. You may like to choose some of the children to be the leaders who read the reflections?



Scan the link below to follow along with our animated Stations of the Resurrection for Kids.

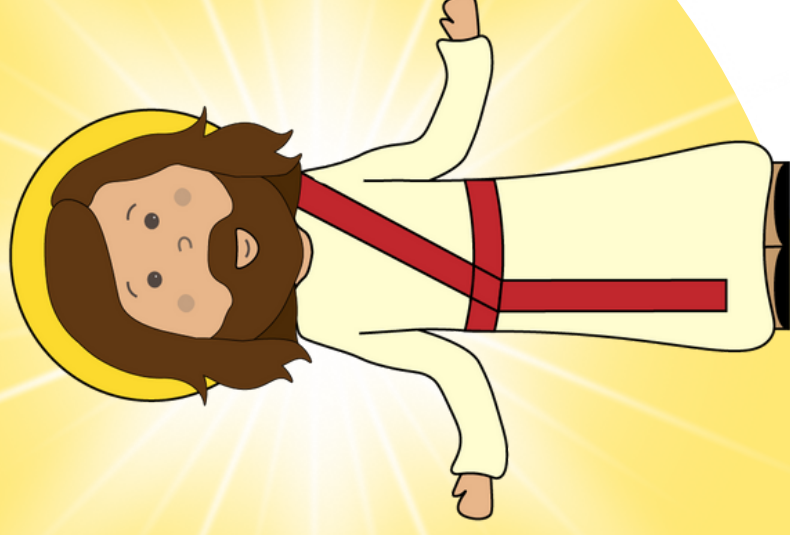


Scan the link below to sing along with our 'Jesus is Risen' lyric video



STATIONS of the RESURRECTION

With Children



These scriptural Stations of the Resurrection are based on the Via Lucis, introduced in the Salesian community and adopted by the Vatican in 2001.

The text used in this adaptation is based on the Contemporary English Version of the bible as used in the Lectionary of Masses for Children.

To pray this version of the Stations of the Resurrection you will need: fourteen candles (LED candles are a good option for very small children), matches, a white or gold cloth, an image or symbol of the risen Jesus. Together with the children, create a special prayer space using these items. Do not light the candles to begin with (these will be lit with each station). Use the booklet on the following pages to guide you through the prayer.

Introduction

Leader: Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Jesus loves us so much and his love is stronger than anything! To help us celebrate, we are going to pray a special prayer called the 'Stations of the Resurrection'.

Make the Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Stations of the Resurrection

Leader: The first station (*Matt. 28:1-7*). We remember when Jesus rose from the dead. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the first candle).*

Leader: The second station (*John 20:1-9*). We remember when Peter and John found the empty tomb. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the second candle).*

Leader: The third station (*John 20:11-18*). We remember when Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. He called her by name and she recognised him. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the third candle).*

Leader: The fourth station (*Luke 24:13-19, 25-27*). We remember when Jesus appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the fourth candle).*

Leader: The fifth station (*Luke 24:28-35*). We remember when Jesus ate with the two disciples from the road. As soon as he broke the bread, they recognised him! *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the fifth candle).*

Leader: The sixth station (*Luke 24:36-43*). We remember when Jesus appeared to his disciples, he said to them, 'peace be with you'. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the sixth candle).*

Leader: The seventh station (*John 20:19-23*). We remember when Jesus gave his disciples the power to forgive sins. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the seventh candle).*

Leader: The eighth station (*John 20:24-29*). We remember when Jesus helped Thomas to have faith. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the eighth candle).*

Leader: The ninth station (*John 21:1-13*). We remember when Jesus cooked breakfast for his disciples on the shore of lake Tiberias. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the ninth candle).*

Leader: The tenth station (*John 21:15-17*). We remember when Jesus made Peter the leader of the Church. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the tenth candle).*

Leader: The eleventh station (*Matthew 28:16-20*). We remember when Jesus gives his disciples the Great Commission. He said, *'make disciples of all people, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'* *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the eleventh candle).*

Leader: The twelfth station (*Acts 1:6-11*). We remember when Jesus ascended into heaven. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the twelfth candle).*

Leader: The thirteenth station (*Acts 1:12-14*). We remember when Mary and the disciples waited for the Holy Spirit in the upper room. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the thirteenth candle).*

Leader: The fourteenth station (*Acts 2:1-6*). We remember when God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples, just as Jesus promised. *(All pray quietly)*

All: Jesus, your love is stronger than anything, alleluia! *(Light the fourteenth candle).*

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day, our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Make the Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.