THE STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION
The Stations of the Resurrection

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The Stations of the Resurrection

Introduction

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, called the Stations of the Resurrection or the Stations of Joy.

By using the resurrection appearances of Jesus as a focus for reflection and meditation we have an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate the Easter mysteries of the resurrection of our Lord during the season of Easter which journeys from Easter Day to Pentecost.

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 should be given to allow the liturgy to enable that encounter to happen today.

The resurrection provokes each one of us to make a personal response and consider how our lives are transformed and renewed by Jesus Christ. For each station the clergy of York Minster have chosen an image or object which speaks to the bible reading and helps them reflect on their own response to the resurrection. We hope their reflections will help you too. Each station is also accompanied by a piece of music from the Choir of York Minster to help us enter more deeply into the stories surrounding the resurrection of Christ.

Victoria Johnson, Canon Precentor
The Gathering

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. Isaiah 49.13

Let us pray.

A brief moment of silence follows.

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.
The First Station: The earthquake

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. Matthew 28. 2-4

Reflection

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for in your resurrection the power of love breaks open the earth and frees life from death. As the angel rolled away the stone from the prison of the tomb, so release those imprisoned by life’s misfortunes.

To you, Lord Jesus, whose life brings surprises beyond our wildest expectations, 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.

Music

Alleluia, laudate pueri Dominum:
laudate nomen Domini.

Alleluia. Praise the Lord, ye servants:
O praise the name of the Lord.

Words Psalm 113 • Music Francis Jackson (b. 1917)
Second 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

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.'  

John 20:1,2

Reflection

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.

This acclamation may be used

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

Music

I sat down under his shadow with great delight
and his fruit was sweet to my taste
he brought me to the banqueting house
and his banner over me was love.

Words Song of Solomon 2. 3–4 • Music Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)
Third 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

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.  

John 20:3-8

Reflection

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.

Music

O Lord God of time and eternity,  
who makest us creatures of time,  
that, when time is over,  
we may attain thy blessed eternity;  
with time, thy gift,  
give us also wisdom to redeem the time,  
lest our day of grace be lost.

Words Christina Rossetti (1830–94) • Music Philip Moore (b. 1943  
Written for the Enthronement of Dr John Habgood as Archbishop of York
Fourth 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

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. Matthew 28:5-8

Reflection

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.

Music

Psalm 138

1. I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

2. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name, because of thy loving-kindness and truth: for thou hast magnified thy Name and thy word above all things.

3. When I called upon thee, thou hearest me: and enduedst my soul with much strength.

4. All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord: for they have heard the words of thy mouth.

5. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord: that great is the glory of the Lord.

6. For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.

7. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me: thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

8. The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me: yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the works of thine own hands.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
Fifth 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

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.’ Matthew 28. 9,10

Reflection

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.

Music

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a Way, as gives us breath;
such a Truth, as ends all strife;
such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a Light, as shows a feast;
such a Feast, as mends in length;
such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a Joy, as none can move;
such a Love, as none can part;
such a Heart, as joys in love.

Words George Herbert (1593–1633) • Music Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)
Sixth 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

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.

Luke 24.28-35

Reflection

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.

Music

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict; from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia.

Words Salisbury Diurnal • Music William Harris (1883–1973)
Seventh 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_

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. _Luke 24. 36-43_

_Reflection_

_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.

_Music_

_O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee._

_Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces._

_Words Psalm 122. 6–7 • Music Herbert Howells (1892–1983)_
Eighth Station: Jesus promises the Spirit

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Luke 24. 44-49

Reflection

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for you promised that the same power that was at work when you were raised from the dead would also be alive in us. Show your power to those who are powerless; reveal your love to those who feel unlovely and through your Spirit enable all your people to be witnesses of your amazing grace. To you, Lord Jesus, daily renewing your people and your creation, 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.

Music

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Music Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)
Ninth Station: Jesus commissions 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 John *

Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ *John 20. 21-23*

*Reflection*

*Prayer*

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for as you were sent by the Father, so you send us. Equip your Church with the gifts to fulfil our calling that we may love as you loved, serve as you served, and willingly follow wherever you lead. To you, Lord Jesus, gifting your people, 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.

*Music*

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth.

*Words* St John 14. 15–16 • *Music* Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–85)
Tenth Station: Jesus breathes the Spirit in the upper room

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to John

When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

John 20.22,23

Reflection

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for you breathed new life into your astonished disciples. As you turned unutterable grief into unshakeable joy, so renew and refresh your turbulent world and establish now your reign of peace. To you, Lord Jesus, transforming the pain of death into the fullness of life, 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.

Music

Glorious and Powerful God,
we understand thy dwelling is on high
above the starry sky.
Thou dwellest not in stone temples made with hand;
but in the flesh hearts of the sons of men to dwell is thy delight,
near hand, though out of sight.
We give of thine own hand,
thy acceptation is very life and blood,
to all actions good.
Whenever here or hence our supplication, from pure and with unfeigned hearts,
to thee ascends, be present with thy grace,
shew us thy loving face.

O down on us full showers of mercy send;
let thy love’s burning beams
dry up all our sin’s streams.
Arise, O Lord,
and come into thy rest.
Both now and evermore thy name be blest,
founder and foundation
of endless habitation.

Music Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)
Eleventh 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

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.’  

John 20.24-29

Reflection

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.

Music

Be strong and of a good courage, for I have prepared for the house of the Lord an hundred thousand talents of gold. Moreover there are workers with thee in abundance, hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work. Arise therefore and be doing and build the sanctuary of the Lord our God. Be strong and of a good courage.

Words 1 Chronicles 22 • Music Richard Shephard (b. 1949)
Twelfth 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

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. 

*John 21.9-13*

*Reflection*

*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.

*Music*

*O sacrum convivium in quo Christus sumitur; recolitur memoria passionis eius mens impletur gratia; et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur. Alleluia.*

*O sacred banquet in which Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the mind filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us. Alleluia.*

Words Magnificat antiphon, second vespers of Corpus Christi • *Music* George Haynes
Thirteenth 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_

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.’

_John 21.15-19_

**Reflection**

**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.

**Music**

Ye that know the Lord is gracious,  
  ye for whom a Corner-stone  
  stands, of God elect and precious,  
  laid that ye may build thereon,  
  see that on that sure foundation  
  ye a living temple raise,  
  towers that may tell forth salvation,  
  walls that may re-echo praise.

Living stones, by God appointed  
  each to his allotted place,  
  kings and priests, by God anointed,  
  shall ye not declare his grace?  
  Ye, a royal generation,  
  tell the tidings of your birth,  
  tidings of a new creation  
  to an old and weary earth.
Tell the praise of him who called you
out of darkness into light,
broke the fetters that enthralled you,
gave you freedom, peace and sight:
tell the tale of sins forgiven,
strength renewed and hope restored,
till the earth, in tune with heaven,
praise and magnify the Lord.

Words C A Alington (1872–1955) • Tune Rustington, Hubert Parry (1848–1918)
Fourteenth Station: Jesus and the beloved disciple

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to John

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, ‘Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?’ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, what about him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!’ So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?’  

John 21.20-23

Reflection

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for your single-minded commitment to your Father’s will. May we be free from distractions of envy or self, that we might walk the way of the cross and know the power of your risen life. To you, Lord Jesus, treading boldly on the path of suffering, 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.

Music

Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

Words St Bernard (1090–1153) translated by E Caswall (1814–1878)

Music Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)
Fifteenth Station: Jesus appears to over five hundred at once

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 1 Corinthians 15.3-6

Reflection

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for your resurrection is a revelation to the whole world. As you revealed yourself powerfully to so many, reveal yourself now as the hope for our world. To you, Lord Jesus, going beyond the limits of our understanding, 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.

Music

Praise our Lord, all ye Gentiles; praise him, all ye people: because his mercy is confirmed upon us, and his truth remaineth for ever. Amen.

Words Psalm 117 translated Richard Verstegan (1599) • Music William Byrd (1539/40–1623)
Sixteenth Station: Jesus commissions the disciples on the mountain

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (28.16-20)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ Matthew 28.16-20

Reflection

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for you took the risk of passing your mission to frail disciples. As you commissioned them to go into all the world, so may all the world come to you, the King of nations. To you, Lord Jesus, with us to the end of the age, 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.

Music

Christ is made the sure foundation, and the precious corner-stone, who, the two walls underlying, bound in each, binds both in one, holy Sion’s help for ever, and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city, dearly loved by God on high, in exultant jubilation pours perpetual melody, God the One, in threefold glory, singing everlastingly.
To this temple, where we call thee,
   come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness,
   hear thy people as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
   shed within its walls for ay.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
   gifts of grace by prayer to gain;
here to have and hold for ever,
   those good things their prayers obtain,
and hereafter, in thy glory,
   with thy blessed ones to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father;
   laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
   ever Three, and ever One,
One in love, and One in splendour,
   while unending ages run.

*Words* Latin, 7th–8th century, trans John Mason Neale (1818–66)
*Tune* WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell (1659–95)
Seventeenth Station: The Ascension

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

All Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.’ Acts 1.3-11

Reflection

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.

Music

Dominus in caelo paravit sedem suam. Alleluia.

God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Alleluia.
The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven. Alleluia.

Words Psalms 47. 5 and 103. 19 • Music Peter Philips ?1560–1628
Eighteenth 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

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.’ Acts 2.1-11

Reflection

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.

Music

We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge thee, to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting. To thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens, and all the Powers there-in.

To thee Cherubin, and Seraphin continually do cry, Holy, Lord of Saboth; Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy Glory. The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee. The noble Martyrs praise thee. The Holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee the Father of an infinite Majesty; Thine honourable, trye, and only Son; Also the Holy Ghost the Conforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor the Virgin’s womb. When thou hadst over-come the sharpness of death, thou didst open the Kindom of Heaven to all believers. Thou sitest at the right
hand of God: in the glory of the Father. we believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge. We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy Saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thin heritage. Govern them and lift them up for ever. Day by day we magnify thee; And we worship thy Name ever world without end.

Vouch-safe, O Lord, to keep up this day without sin. Lord, to keep us this day witout sin. O Lord, have mervy upon us. Lord, let thy merby lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

William Walton (1902–83) arr Simon Preston and Mark Blatchly
Nineteenth Station: Jesus appears to Saul (Paul)

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’ The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ He answered, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ The Lord said to him, ‘Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.’ But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’ But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized. Acts 9.1-18

Reflection

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for you transformed the murderous Saul into the great apostle, Paul. As you revealed yourself to him on the road to Damascus, reveal yourself afresh to your people journeying through this life. To you, Lord Jesus, who can fill even the emptiest of lives, 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.

Music

I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.
O Trinity! O Unity!
Be present as we worship thee,
and with the songs that angels sing
unite the hymns of praise we bring. Amen.

Words Isaiah 6: 1–4 and Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833–1917)
Music John Stainer (1840–1901)
The Conclusion

A prayer

O Lord God, our Father. You are the light that can never be put out; and now you give us a light that shall drive away all darkness. You are love without coldness, and you have given us such warmth in our hearts that we can love all when we meet. You are the life that defies death, and you have opened for us the way that leads to eternal life.

None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary. But your grace is enough for us. Arouse in us that small degree of joy and thankfulness of which we are capable, to the timid faith which we can muster, to the cautious obedience which we cannot refuse, and thus to the wholeness of life which you have prepared for all of us through the death and resurrection of your Son. Do not allow any of us to remain apathetic or indifferent to the wondrous story of Easter, but let the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our dull hearts.

Karl Barth 1886-1968

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

The Lord’s Prayer is said.

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.

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.

Music

Final (Symphonie 3 in F sharp minor, op 28), Louis Vierne