

The Easter Procession

Via Lucis



*Encounters with the
Risen Christ*

*Walk with the Risen Lord as He
appears to His disciples.*

*Listen to the beautiful chanting and
choral singing as we visit
eight beautiful icons of Gospel
events in the soft light of
our church.*

*Similar to Stations of the Cross,
this procession takes you through
Jesus' visits after the Resurrection.*

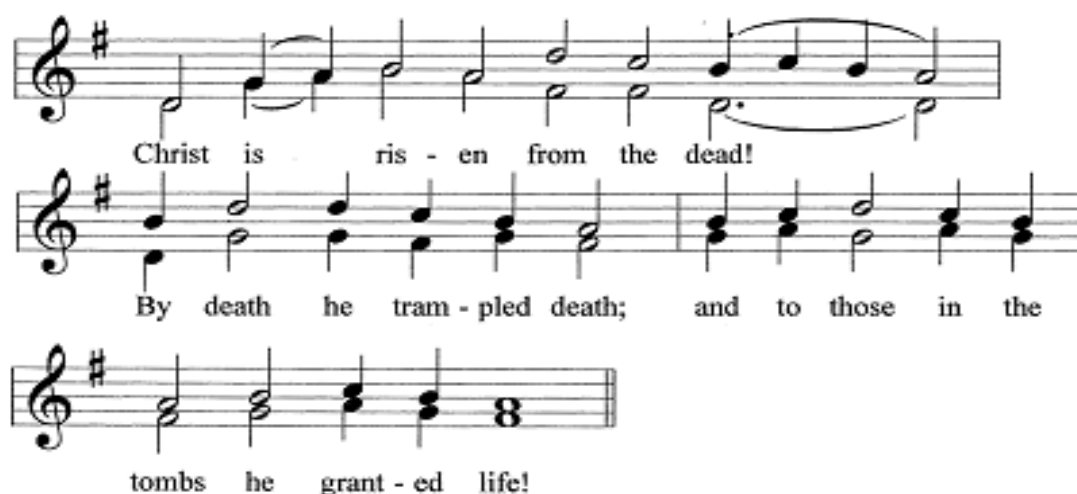
The Easter Procession

Encounters with the Risen Christ

*Procession enters church, which is lighted only by the Paschal Candle.
Procession is headed by incense, followed by torches; Priest is last..*

P Christ is risen from the dead!
By death he trampled Death;
and to those in the tombs he granted life!

A All repeat



P Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered,
and let those who hate him flee from before his face.

A *Christ is risen...*

P As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish,
as wax melts before a fire.

A *Christ is risen...*

P So let the wicked perish at the presence of God,
but let the righteous one rejoice.

A *Christ is risen...*

P This is the day the Lord has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it!

A *Christ is risen...*

P Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

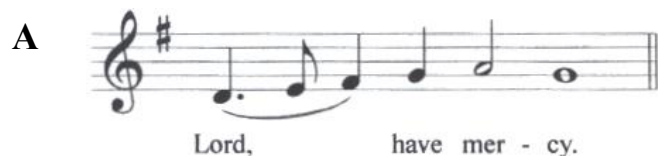
A *Christ is risen...*

P Now and ever and forever. Amen!

A *Christ is risen...*

The ministers are standing before the altar for the opening prayer

D Let us pray to the Lord!



P O only-begotten Son and Word of God,
inseparable from the Father,
by your victorious passion you have brought death to nothing.
You have raised us with yourself
all those who have fallen asleep since the time of Adam.
Now, O Lord and love of us all,
look with favor upon your people,
and perfect the vine your right hand has planted.
For how can we repay you?
We offer you praise from our lips:
Glory to you who were baptized!
Glory to you who were crucified and buried!
Glory to you, for you are risen and raise us with you!
Glory to you, together with your eternal Father
and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit,
now and ever and forever!



*The procession now goes from the altar to the first encounter,
while all sing "Christ is risen from the dead..."*

*The encounters are each indicated by an
icon and a stand*



The First Encounter:

The women at the empty tomb

Celebrant A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

All

Glo - ry to your ho - ly Re - sur - rec - tion, O Lord!

A portion of Luke 24:1-12 is read

At daybreak on the first day of the week
the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus
took the spices that they had prepared
and went to the tomb.
They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered,
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. . . .
“Why do you seek the living among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.”

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all sing again

Glo - ry to your ho - ly Re - sur - rec - tion, O Lord!

Victimae Paschali Laudes

VICTIMAE	CHRISTIANS
<p>Paschali laudes immolent Christiani.</p> <p>Agnus redemit oves: Christus innocens Patri reconciliavit peccatores.</p> <p>Mors et vita duello confluxere mirando: dux vitae mortuus, regnat vivus.</p> <p>Dic nobis Maria, Quid vidisti in via?</p> <p>Sepulcrum Christi viventis, et gloriam vidi resurgentis:</p> <p>Angelicos testes, sudarium et vestes.</p> <p>Surrexit Christus spes mea: praecedet suos in Galilaeam.</p> <p>Scimus Christum surrexisse a mortuis vere: Tu nobis, victor Rex miserere. Amen. Alleluia.</p>	<p>to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.</p> <p>The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.</p> <p>Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.</p> <p>Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.</p> <p>The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as He rose!</p> <p>The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.</p> <p>Christ, my hope, has risen: He goes before you into Galilee.</p> <p>That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious King, Thy mercy show! Amen. Alleluia.</p>

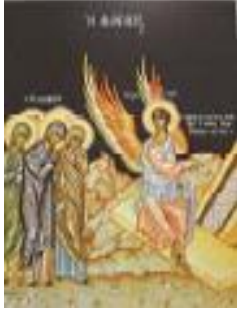
✝

Christ is ris - en from the dead!

By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the

tombs he grant - ed life!

✝



The Second Encounter:

The Myrrh-bearers at the tomb

Celebrant A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

All



A portion of Mark 16:1-8 is read

When the Sabbath was over,
Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James and Salome
brought spices so that they might go and anoint him.
Very early when the sun had risen,
on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.
They were saying to one another,
“Who will roll back the stone for us
from the entrance to the tomb?”
When they looked up,
they saw that the stone had been rolled back;
it was very large.
On entering the tomb they saw a young man
sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe,
and they were utterly amazed.
He said to them, “Do not be amazed!
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
He has been raised, he is not here. . . .
But go and tell his disciples and Peter,
‘He is going before you to Galilee. . . .’”

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all sing again



Alleluia! Alleluia! Let The Holy Anthem Rise

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the holy anthem rise,
And the choirs of heaven chant it
In the temple of the skies;
Let the mountains skip with gladness,
And the joyful valleys ring
With hosannas in the highest
To our Savior and our King!

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Like the sun from out the wave,
He has risen up in triumph
From the darkness of the grave.
He's the splendor of the nations,
He's the lamp of endless day;
He's the very Lord of glory
Who is risen up today!

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Blessed Jesus, make us rise
From the life of this corruption
To the life that never dies.
May your glory be our portion,
When the days of time are past,
And the dead shall be awakened
By the trumpet's mighty blast!

✝

Christ is ris - en from the dead!

By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the

tombs he grant - ed life!

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for 'Christ is risen from the dead!' with a long note on 'dead!'. The second staff contains the accompaniment for 'By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the'. The third staff contains the accompaniment for 'tombs he grant - ed life!' with a final double bar line and repeat sign.





The Third Encounter:

Peter and John reach the tomb

Celebrant A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

All



A portion of John 20:1-10 is read

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
...
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told
them,
“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”
So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the
tomb.
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not
go in.
When Simon Peter arrived. . .
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths. . . .
Then the other disciple also went in, . . .
and he saw and believed.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all sing again



È risorto!

1. È risorto, è risorto!
Innalziam felici un cor.
Dalla tomba liberato
è infine il Signor.
Morte mai più vincerà
perché in Cristo è libertà.

1. He is risen, he is risen! Let
us raise a happy chorus. The
Lord is finally freed from the
grave. Death will never win
again because in Christ is our
freedom.

2. Il trionfo del Signore
canterem al mondo inter.
Non c'è ombra di dolore
sotto questo azzurro ciel.
Splende il sole del mattin,
quale simbolo divin.

2. The triumph of the Lord
will be sing in the world.
There is no shadow of pain
under this blue sky. The
morning sun shines as a divine
symbol.

3. È risorto, è risorto!
I portali aprì del ciel,
sconfiggendo il peccato
e portando l'Evangel.
Nel profondo d'ogni cuor
sia la pace del Signor.

3. He is risen, he is risen!
The portals of heaven open,
defeating sin and announcing
the Gospel. Deep in every
heart is the peace of the Lord.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Christ is ris - en from the dead!' written below. A cross symbol is positioned above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the'. The third staff concludes the phrase with lyrics 'tombs he grant - ed life!'. A cross symbol is positioned below the staff.

†

Christ is ris - en from the dead!

By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the

tombs he grant - ed life!

†



The Fourth Encounter:

Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Lord

Celebrant A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

All



A portion of John 20:11-18 is read

Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping.
And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white
sitting there. . .
And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”
She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they
laid him.”
When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there,
but did not know it was Jesus.
Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? . . .”
She thought it was the gardener and said to him,
“Sir, if you carried him away,
tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.”
Jesus said to her, “Mary!”
She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni,” which means Teacher.
Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to me,
for I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and tell them,
‘I am going to my Father and your Father,
to my God and to your God.’”

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all sing again



When Mary Saw Two Angels

When Mary saw two angels inside the grave,
she was seized with fright.
She did not recognize Christ but thought him the gardener;
she said to him, "Sir, where have you placed the body of Jesus?"

She knew from his voice that he was the Savior,
and she obeyed him when he said:
"Touch me not, for I am going to my Father.
Tell this to my disciples."

†

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Christ is ris - en from the dead!'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the'. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, with lyrics 'tombs he grant - ed life!'. The score ends with a double bar line. A cross symbol (†) is placed above the first staff and below the third staff.

Christ is ris - en from the dead!

By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the

tombs he grant - ed life!

†



The Fifth Encounter:

The Road to Emmaus

Celebrant A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

All



A portion of Luke 24:13-35 is read

And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are!
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?”
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them what referred to him
in all the Scriptures.
As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going farther.
But they urged him, “Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.
With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all sing again

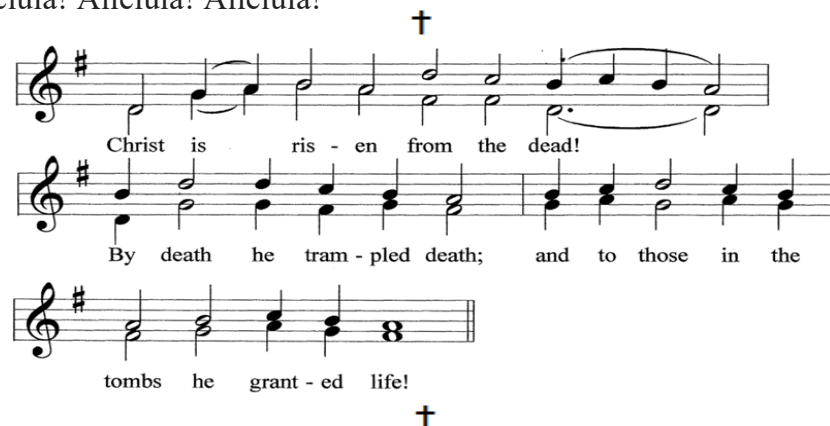


In the Breaking of the Bread

1. In the walking on the road, we saw Him.
In the telling of our hopes, we saw Him.
In the burning of our hearts, we saw the Lord.
At the meal He took the bread and then He blessed it, broke it, offered it.
In the breaking of the bread, we saw Him!
Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive!
2. We set out to find His friends to tell them.
We went to Jerusalem to tell them;
and with joy we told them, "We have seen the Lord!"
And as we were speaking there, He stood among us, blessed us, said to us,
"Now my peace I leave with you." We saw Him!
Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive!
3. But then we became afraid without Him.
In the darkened room we stayed without Him,
waiting for the One He said that He would send.
Then the Spirit of the Lord came down upon us,
filling us, changing us, giving us the strength to say:
We saw Him! Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive!
4. We ran out into the street to tell them,
everyone that we could meet, to tell them,
"God has raised Him up and we have seen the Lord!"
We took bread as He had done and then we blessed it, broke it, offered it.
In the breaking of the bread, we saw Him!
Suddenly our eyes were opened.
5. There within our midst was Jesus, and we knew He was alive.
In the breaking of the bread, He is here with us again,
and we know He is alive.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!





The Sixth Encounter:

Meeting in the Upper Room

Celebrant A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

All



A portion of Luke 24:35-48 is read

While they were still speaking about this,
he stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you!”
But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled?
And why do questions arise in your hearts? .”
And he said to them,
“Thus it is written that the Christ would
suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance,
for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations,
beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things.”

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all sing again



Festival Cantic: Worthy Is Christ

Refrain:

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verses:

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

R:

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,
blessing, and glory are his.

R:

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation.

R:

Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb for ever. Amen.

R:

For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains the melody for the first line of the verse: "Christ is ris - en from the dead!". The second staff continues the melody for the second line: "By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the". The third staff concludes the melody for the third line: "tombs he grant - ed life!". The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. A small cross symbol is placed above the first staff, and another cross symbol is placed below the third staff.

Christ is ris - en from the dead!

By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the

tombs he grant - ed life!



The Seventh Encounter:

Thomas believes

Celebrant A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

All



A portion of John 20:19-31 is read

Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them.

Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you!"

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have
seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all sing again



Ye Sons and Daughters

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Verses




4. That night the a-pos - tles met in fear; A-midst them came their
5. When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard, How they had seen the
6. "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see; My hands, my feet, I
7. No long - er Thom - as then de - nied, He saw the feet, the




4. Lord most dear, And said, "My peace be on all here."
5. ris - en Lord, He doubt-ed the dis - ci - ples' word. } Al - le - lu - ia!
6. show to thee; Not faith-less, but be - liev - ing be."
7. hands, the side; "Thou art my Lord and God," he cried.

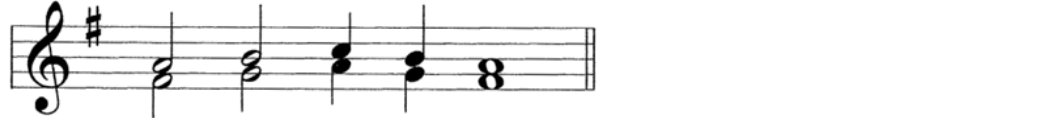
†



Christ is ris - en from the dead!



By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the



tombs he grant - ed life!

†



The Eighth Encounter:

Jesus appears to the fishing disciples

Celebrant A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

All



A portion of John 21:1-19 is read

At this time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples
at the Sea of Tiberias.
He revealed himself in this way.
Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus,
Nathanael from Cana in Galilee,
Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples.
Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."
They said to him, "We also will come with you."
So they went out and got into the boat,
but that night they caught nothing.
When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore;
but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.
Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"
They answered him, "No."
So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat
and you will find something."
So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in
because of the number of fish.
So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord. . . ."
When they climbed out on shore,
they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. . . .
Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all sing again



Pescador De Hombres

Lord you have come to the sea-shore
neither searching for the rich nor the wise,
desiring only that I should follow.

Refrain:

O Lord, with your eyes set upon me,
gently smiling, you have spoken my name;
all I longed for I have found by the water,
at your side, I will seek other shores.

Tú has venido a la orilla, no has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos;
tan solo quieres que yo te siga.

Refrain:

Señor, me has mirado a los ojos, sonriendo has dicho mi nombre.
En la arena he dejado mi barca, junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

Closing Prayer

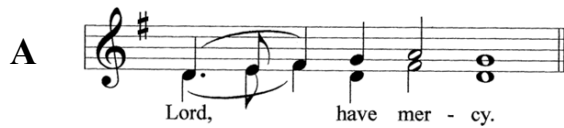
The procession returns to the altar, while all sing

Christ is risen from the dead!

By death he trampled death; and to those in the

tombs he granted life!

D Let us pray to the Lord!



P O ever-flowing, living, and light-giving Source,
O creative Power, co-eternal with the Father,
who most marvelously fulfilled the entire plan concerning our salvation

O Christ our God-----

You shattered the indissoluble bonds of death,
offering yourself for us a blameless Victim,
and giving your most pure Body as a sacrifice,
thereby giving us life!

You, O Lord of everlasting glory,
beloved Son of the most high Father:
hear us who are praying to you.

Receive the hymn of thanksgiving we offer to you
for your loving kindness to all whom you have made.

P Let our prayer be directed like incense before you
and accepted as a fragrant aroma.
Clothe us with the armor of light;
deliver us from the fears of the night.
Send us into the world as joyful witnesses of your Resurrection.
For you, O Christ, are holy, and we give glory to you,
and to your Father and to your holy and life-giving Spirit,
now and ever and forever.



Final Remarks

Regina Caeli

Regina caeli láetare, allelùia:
Quia quem meruísti portáre, allelùia:
resurrèxit, sicut dixit, allelùia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, allelùia.

Response to the Gospel

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1. Jesus Christ is ris'n today,	}	Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing,		
3. But the pains which he endured,		
4. Sing we to our God above,		

1. Our triumphant holy day,	}	Alleluia!
2. Unto Christ, our heav'nly King,		
3. Our salvation have procured;		
4. Praise eternal as his love,		

1. Who did once upon the cross,	}	Alleluia!
2. Who endured the cross and grave,		
3. Now he reigns above as King,		
4. Praise him, all ye heav'nly host,		

1. Suffer to redeem our loss.	}	Alleluia!
2. Sinners to redeem our loss.		
3. Where the angels ever sing.		
4. Father, Son and Holy Ghost.		



About the Way of Light

Although the Sunday and weekday liturgies are faithfully observed, the Easter Season has not captured the imagination of the Roman Catholic faithful; the spirit of joy often fades away at the same time the Easter lilies do. Compared to the season of Lent, the fifty-day Easter observance is still relatively new to Western Christians.

While this paucity of attention to the Resurrection (typified by the attitude of “After Easter Sunday, it’s all downhill from here”) is typical of Western parishes; Byzantine Catholic parishes have a different experience of the Great Fifty Days. This is due in part to the ever-present context of each Sunday being a miniature celebration of Easter: the Byzantine liturgical cycle is based on celebrating Easter every Sunday as the day of Resurrection.

Taking a hint from Byzantine liturgical sources, the *Way of Light* is based on “encountering” the Risen Christ as He encountered His disciples in the Gospels. It is set up in the form of a procession, with the number of “encounters” chosen using the number eight - that mystic number that indicated “newness” in the early Church. Many of the writers of the first centuries call the Lord’s Day the “eighth day”. Many ancient Baptismal fonts are built with an eight-sided structure.

We thank the Immaculate Conception Choir, under the direction of Robert Harvey, for helping us to make these encounters with the Risen Christ so beautiful and personal.



*Parish of
Immaculate Conception and
Assumption of Our Lady
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