

**RESOLUTION (3) The Way of Light**

Resolution on a proposed liturgy, "The Way of Light"  
Presented to the Synod of Province III on May 7 – 8, 2018  
If adopted, to be forwarded to the Secretary of General Convention (*see C003*)

*Resolved*, That the Synod of Province III, meeting in Martinsburg, West Virginia on May 7 – 8, 2018, endorses the following resolution and hereby instructs the Provincial Secretary to forward it to the Secretary of General Convention by no later than May 25, 2018.

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**Based on the following Resolution adopted by the Diocese of Virginia:**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention direct that "The Way of Light" Liturgy, in the form below is included in the next revised edition of The Book of Occasional Services.

The Way of Light

*A hymn or other song may be sung during the entrance of the ministers.*

Opening Devotions

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.* Lord,

have mercy. *Officiant*

*and People*

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.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come, your

will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as

we forgive those who

sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and

deliver us from evil.

V. We will glory in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

R. In whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection. Let us pray.

*(Silence)*

Almighty Father, who gave your only Son to die for our sins and to rise for our justification: Give us grace so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The procession goes to the First Station.*

First Station

Jesus is raised from the dead

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

V. Why do you look for the living among the dead?

R. He is not here, but has risen. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Second Station

Peter and John run to the Empty Tomb We adore

you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward 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; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

V. Set your mind on things that are above:

R. Not things that are on the earth. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Third Station

Mary Magdalene meets the Risen Lord We adore

you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus said to

her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

V. Weeping may linger for the night:

R. But joy comes with the morning. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and of mind, and called her to be a witness of his resurrection: Mercifully grant that by your grace we may be healed from all our infirmities and know you in the power of his unending life; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Fourth Station

Jesus appears on the Road to Emmaus We adore

you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

On that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover,

some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

V. Do not think I have come to abolish the law or the prophets:

R. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.* Fifth

Station

Jesus is known in the breaking of the bread We adore

you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But the two disciples 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.

V. As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup:

R. You proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.* Sixth

Station

Jesus appears to the disciples in Jerusalem We adore

you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

Jesus himself stood among the disciples 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. 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.

V. Christ being raised from the dead will never die again:

R. Death no longer has dominion over him. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with awe the Paschal feast may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Seventh Station

Jesus gives his disciples his peace and the power to forgive sins We adore  
you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

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."

V. Peace I leave with you:

R. My peace I give to you. Let

us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Eighth Station

Jesus strengthens the faith of Thomas

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

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."

V. We have come to believe in Christ Jesus:

R. So that we might be justified by faith in Christ. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

Everliving God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Ninth Station

Jesus appears by the Sea of Galilee

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples

came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. 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 fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

V. On this day the Lord has acted:

R. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Tenth Station

Jesus forgives Peter and commands him to feed his sheep We adore  
you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

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."

V. Like sheep we had gone astray:

R. But now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Eleventh Station

Jesus gives the Great Commission

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped 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."

V. I will give you as a light to the nations:

R. That my salvation shall reach to the ends of the earth. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Twelfth Station

Jesus ascends into heaven

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

While staying with the disciples, Jesus 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

V. You will be my witnesses:

R. To the ends of the earth. Let

us pray. *(Silence)*

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Thirteenth Station

Mary and the disciples wait in prayer

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world.*

The disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

V. Be still before the LORD:

R. Wait patiently for him. Let us

pray. *(Silence)*

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Fourteenth Station

The Holy Spirit descends at Pentecost

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your glorious resurrection you have redeemed the world. When the day of Pentecost had come, the followers of Jesus 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. All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" In answering, Peter preached to them from the scriptures. Then he said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*  
*V. I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh:*

R. And your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, on the day of Pentecost you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Concluding Prayers before the Altar

V. If then you have been raised with Christ:

R. Seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well- beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and  
ever. *Amen.*

## Explanation

The Episcopal Church has no approved liturgy for celebrating a living understanding to the faithful of the second moment of the Pascal event, namely the Lord's Resurrection. This proposed liturgy, based on the outline of the fourteen stations of post-resurrection appearances, exclusively incorporates collects and scriptural texts from The Book of Common Prayer and the New Revised Standard Version translation of The Holy Bible.