

RISE DAY MORNING PRAYER

Option 2: Resurrection Prayer Service - NW

Place in the TEC Process: The previous day ended with the Paschal Vigil prayer service as participants renewed their Baptismal Vows. This second day of TEC is focused on the Resurrection presence of Christ in his church, the sacraments, and especially the Eucharist. This prayer service is designed to create a spiritual awareness, both of the historical resurrection and the continued graced presence of Christ in our lives.

Preparation: Team members should be assigned roles that correspond to roles played in Saturday night's Passion.

Setting: The chapel is bright when participants enter. Centered in front of the Altar is a cross, draped with a white cloth; a "risen" atmosphere. As each person enters, they walk to the center of the room and leave through the Chapel door.

John and Mary enter together:

- JOHN: I am John. Jesus was my friend. I was only 18 when I saw him die. I stayed with him to the very end. He was magnificent. His love never ceased to his very last breath.
- MARY: I am Mary, Jesus' mother. I stood with John at the foot of the cross. Jesus, in the midst of his intense suffering, gave John to me as my son, and I to John as his mother.
- JOSEPH: I am Joseph from Arimathea. I was privileged to take his body down from the cross. I laid him in my own tomb.
- SOLDIER: I am the Roman soldier who presided over his crucifixion. I know death very well. I verified that he died. I sealed his tomb and guarded it with my men.
- MARY M: I am Mary of Magdala. I went to the tomb early this morning with two of my friends and we found the stone rolled back and the tomb empty. The linen cloths with which we had covered his body lay on the floor.

Cleopas, Friend and Jesus enter together:

- CLEOPAS: I am Cleopas. My friend and I were walking to a village called Emmaus this afternoon, and someone we did not recognize joined us.
- FRIEND: But our hearts were on fire when he spoke to us. We invited him to share our dinner and then we discovered it was our friend - Jesus!

Cleopas and Friend leave together.

- JESUS: Peace be with you. Behold I am with you still. My Father loves you as he has loved me. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, he has raised me from the dead. Freely I laid my life down for you all, and freely I have taken it back again, so that I can continue to live among you.

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JESUS (cont) Because of this morning of the resurrection, I am able to live in you and you in me like never before. Remain in my love. Remember that I told you that I am the vine and you are the branches? Remain in me so that you may bear much fruit.

You are my friends, if you keep my words. The lives of the saints show us what the grace of the resurrection is meant to bring to every human heart. I was able to dwell within their lives, and I can dwell in yours, too, so that the world will always know the unconditional love of my Heavenly Father.

Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News; that the one who once was dead is alive again, and death has no more power over him, or over us. Behold I am with you always, even until the end of time.

PAUL: I am Paul. I started out by hating Jesus, because I did not understand him. Then one day on the road to Damascus, I was blinded by the light of the Risen Jesus and he spoke to me. Now I know that he lives and loves me. He lives in me and I live in him (*Paul leaves the room*)

All Wheat Team members except the Spiritual Leader **leave** to maintain Presenting Team confidentiality.

Witness/Conversion Statements

All team members give a brief (10-20 second) personal witness/conversion statement.

Briefly pause between team statements allowing candidates the opportunity to offer their statements.

Examples:

- “My name is _____, and I have met the risen Lord Jesus and he has changed my life forever. This is what he has done for me _____.
- My name is _____. I once was _____ and am now _____ since finding and following Jesus.

Conclusion

Once the last team member has spoken (ASD or Spiritual Director):

JESUS: Heavenly Father, I have revealed your name and I will continue to reveal it so that your love for me may live in them, and that I may live in them.

Team and candidates form a circle with Jesus.

JESUS: Shalom my friends, Shalom! Do not cling to me for I have risen to my Father and to your Father – to my God and to your God! Look to your left and to your right (Jesus looks around circle). This is where I can be found – within the hearts of your brothers / sisters. Shalom!

Jesus can choose to stay or exit at this time.

ALL: A concluding song is sung with an appropriate rise day theme.