

Initiation Ritual for Men - When it's Dark!

The Easter candle is in the center in front of the altar (not yet lit).

Zel.: I warmly welcome you all here in the Peace Chapel. For a week, you have been on the journey together, meditating, sleeping little, fasting, and surely having precious conversations. Many things will have come to you during this time—good and not so good. We may now lay all of this, our worries and needs, our thanks and praise, before God. Anyone who wishes may now express their thanks aloud, but also their request:

Zel.: When Jesus said to his disciples: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

Zel.: Light the Easter candle before everyone.

Master Reding: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do you light a lamp and put a bowl over it, but place it on a lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In this way, let your light shine before people, so that they may see good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

Zel.: There is much darkness in the world. We want to reject this. Jesus is the true light of the world, and he wants us to come to the true light. But he also wants us to be light in this world. But we can only do that if we live in a deep union with Jesus. Without him, we will fall into darkness again and again.

I ask you to stand up and consciously reject the evil of the world. And so I ask you:

Zel.: Do you reject evil so that you can live in the freedom of the children of God?

All: I reject.

Zel.: Do you reject the temptations of evil so that it does not gain power over you?

All: I renounce.

Zel.: Do you renounce Satan, the author of evil?

All: I renounce.

Jesus is the light of the world. He was sent by the Father so that through him we might be light. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do so. And so I ask you:

Zel.: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Zel.: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered and was buried, rose from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I believe.

Zel.: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church of Christ, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and eternal life?

All: I believe.

Zel.: The Easter candle is in front here. It is lit on Easter night as a sign of the risen Christ. He lives. He is the light of the world. Through his death and resurrection, he has freed us from eternal death. He wants us to live in freedom, which is why he gave us his commandments. He wants us to become more and more who we truly are, without sin that destroys us, for he has called us to the freedom of the children of God. He wants us to be sons of God in Jesus Christ.

I now ask you to light the candle you have designed yourself in the Easter light.

With the lit candle, we stand around the Easter candle and pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Tel.: We recite the Lord's Prayer together.

Anyone who wishes may now remain at the front and receive God's blessing.

Pastor M. Geisser places his hands on the head, Master Reding on the shoulders, thus asking for the blessing.