

The Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers

Mark 15:43-16:8

Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James beheld where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. (KJV)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Hristos a inviat! Adevarat a inviat!

God's Holy Church continues to rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church never ceases to rejoice in the Resurrection. Sundays are associated with the Resurrection.

The Resurrection always has prominence in Orthodox life. Hope created by the Resurrection cannot be conquered or stifled. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome learned first-hand of the Resurrection.

The Myrrh-bearing Women as they are called in the Church went to the Tomb expecting that the Crucified Jesus would be there. The women heard the words that would change everything: "He is Risen!"

Believers are blessed on Pascha each year to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. The joy emanating from the Resurrected Christ pierces the centuries.

The message of the Resurrection continues to change lives, communities and nations. The world is different because of the Paschal celebrations through the centuries.

Empires have come and gone. Nations have risen and fallen. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ continues to offer hope, joy and light for the world. From prison cells, to concentration camps, to high rise apartments, the joy spreads.

The message of Jesus rising from the dead goes from person to person, from church to church, from village to village. Before the internet, before electricity, before air travel, word of the Resurrection traveled across the globe.

Jesus' Resurrection fills hearts with joy. The Resurrection is an antidote to depression and lack of hope. Death is no longer viewed as an end. Eternal life clearly becomes believable.

Jesus triumphed over death. The women coming to the tomb had the Resurrection verified by the man described in the Gospel as being clothed in white. A fresco in Monastery Milesevo immortalizes this image with the White Angel.

Serbian Orthodox Churches throughout the world join with Orthodox believers everywhere in celebrating Pascha. The women coming to the tomb were told not to be frightened.

The Church recounts and proclaims the visit of the women to the tomb every year following Pascha. The Gospel account verifies the Resurrection. Attentive believers welcome the message and are changed by it.

Believers making the journey to Pascha have their lives changed with the arrival of the Feast of Feasts. In the days following Pascha, believers are to incorporate the message of the Resurrection into daily life.

The Church teaches and believers learn from the Resurrected Lord the steps needed for eternal life. Each day the Church offers lessons for believers to draw strength and wisdom from the Resurrected Christ.

Each day the Church draws from the Resurrection and gives lasting lessons for believers to incorporate into their lives. Life in the Church exists at every moment and continues beyond the grave.

Attentive believers will heed the Church's teachings and content of the Divine services. Faithful believers will continue to follow the Resurrected Christ while there is life in the body and the mind functions.

God reveals to believers the steps to take at each moment of life. The Holy Scriptures are rich with wisdom of great benefit for believers. The Divine services offer practical lessons for daily life.

The best learning environment outside the home is God's Holy Church. In the days following Pascha, learning continues in earnest for interested believers. Believers learn to the degree the investment is made in learning God's ways.

The Resurrected Christ offers lessons that are never exhausted. The joyful days following Pascha are rich with lessons leading to eternal life. Wise believers immerse themselves in the lessons and are enriched beyond measure.

The Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers. Holy Martyrs Timothy and Maura.
May 3/May 16,2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic