

The Sunday of the Myrrhbearers

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 Joses 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!

The joyous news of Jesus Christ's Resurrection is proclaimed in the present Gospel. The Myrrhbearing women heard the news. Believers around the world and down through the centuries have heard today's message from St. Mark's Gospel.

The famous fresco of the White Angel at Monastery Mileseva has preserved the image at the Tomb described in the present Gospel. Joy radiates in the hearts welcoming the message of Jesus Christ's Resurrection.

Believers taking the Gospel message to heart strive to live in ways pleasing to the Resurrected Christ. The Resurrected Christ personifies Hope and Light. Depression, despondency and despair have no place in believers' lives.

Jesus Christ eradicated death for those who believe in Him. St. John's Gospel states of Christ: "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." (Jn. 3:15)

The Resurrected Christ gives believers power and hope to live in ways leading to the Kingdom of God and eternal life. Attentive believers look to the Resurrected Christ for daily direction and guidance.

The Resurrected Christ reveals Himself each day and points the way for believers to follow. God's Holy Church teaches believers of the path to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life.

St. John's Gospel contains Jesus' valuable words for believers. The Gospel states: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (Jn. 5:39)

Living in the Resurrected Christ requires personal effort and attentiveness to Christ's teachings. The world unfolds each day according to the Lord God. Wise believers look to the Resurrected Christ each day of life for direction.

Believers are challenged each day to cherish and live in ways pleasing to the Lord. The time of life comes only once as a blessing from the Lord. Each moment is to be used wisely.

God's Holy Church offers the safe and nourishing environment for growth and unity with the Resurrected Christ. Exercising free choice wisely is necessary to move forward with Christ at each moment.

Evil is always present seeking to derail believers. The Resurrected Christ has shown that evil can be overcome. Christ's Light overcomes darkness. The Myrrhbearers in the Gospel were blessed to hear the enlightening news.

The Church constantly and resolutely proclaims the message and the meaning of the Resurrection. Believers derive strength and direction from the Divine services celebrating the Resurrection.

Saints and martyrs having taken the Resurrection most seriously have lived instructive lives for believers to learn from. The Mother of the Resurrected Lord offers nourishment, strength and intercession for believers seeking direction.

Serious prayer provides believers the opportunity to determine direction in daily life. The Church offers daily Scripture readings to nourish believers. Each day the Church sets forth saintly lives to inspire believers.

Resurrection joy cannot be contained and always finds a way to be manifested. Jesus Christ suffered and died on the Cross. Darkness appeared to triumph. The Darkness was temporary. The Brightness of the Resurrection arose.

God's Holy Church has proclaimed and celebrated Jesus' Resurrection for more than twenty centuries. Efforts have not been successful to discredit the news of Jesus rising from the dead.

Believers have the Life-giving information about the Resurrection given to the Myrrhbearers at the Tomb. No darkness in life can take away the Light of Christ from the hearts of believers. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

The Sunday of the Myrrhbearers. Holy Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop of Persia and Those with Him. April 17/30, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic