

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!

God's Holy Church continues to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great joy. The present Gospel reading verifies Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. The women going to the tomb learned Jesus had arisen from the tomb

. Jesus' Resurrection is the foundation and center of Christian belief. Jesus Christ triumphed over death. His defeat of death is reason for believers to maintain joy that cannot be conquered.

Jesus' defeat of death is the antidote to depression in earthly life. The defeat of death is the basis for believing in eternal life. Jesus' triumph over death gives hope for the general resurrection of the dead.

Gloom and darkness abound in today's world. Depression is very common in the United States. Psychologists, psychiatrists and various types of counsellors struggle with treating wide-spread depression.

The Lord Jesus Christ knocked down the door to death. The Lord Jesus Christ established the Light that cannot be extinguished. The Risen Christ is the joy of all joys.

Believers centering their lives in Jesus Christ travel the path to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life. Believers embracing the Resurrection in their hearts, minds and souls journey the pathway to peace and joy in life.

Joseph of Arimathea was a man of great faith. He acted on his faith in seeking possession of Jesus' body. The women who went to the tomb had great faith. They acted courageously and purposely in going to the tomb.

Christians from every century draw inspiration from Joseph of Arimathea and the Myrrhbearing women, Courage is necessary among Christians in every century. Faith in Jesus Christ is to be put into practice.

The journey to Pascha is a journey of enrichment for believers. Believers are to arrive at Pascha living in ways more pleasing to Jesus Christ than when the journey began.

Jesus Christ's Resurrection is the basis for joy to guide believers through the difficulties of life and toward the Heavenly Kingdom. The fasting and prayer of the journey to Pascha yields benefits for the participating believer.

In this period between Pascha and the Feast of the Ascension, Jesus Christ's Resurrection continues to be the primary focus. Now is a time to assess the value of the Resurrection in personal life and in God's Holy Church.

Now is the time for joy to dominate the heart, mind and soul. Now is the time to give total and unconditional thanks to the Resurrected Christ. Partake of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ and be united with Christ with great joy!

God's Holy Church has withstood the trials and challenges through the centuries. God's Holy Church continues to endure, grow and spread across the earth.

Parishes are transformed when Resurrection joy fills the hearts, minds and souls of parishioners. Peace, hope and joy abound when believers embrace the Risen Christ and make Him central to daily life.

This period between Pascha and the Feast of Ascension is a time of great celebration in God's Holy Church. Jesus Christ's Resurrection merits continuous celebration.

The services of the Church between Pascha and Ascension focus on the meaning and joy of the Resurrection. Jesus Christ's Resurrection has a lasting and transforming influence on the hearts, minds and souls of attentive believers.

The Church emphasizes the Resurrection during this time. The Church wants believers to make the Resurrection a governing part of daily life. Pascha is called the Feast of Feasts for good reason. Jesus' defeat of death is to be celebrated!

Evaluate the place Christ's Resurrection has in the conduct of daily life. Be serious in assessing life's goals guided by Jesus Christ's Resurrection. Be as courageous as Joseph of Arimathea and the Myrrhbearing Women!

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The Sunday of the Myrrhbearers. Righteous Job the Longsuffering.  
Translation of the Relics of St. Sava. May 6/19, 2024. Hidden Valley,  
Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic