

Sunday, April 18 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life.

Tropar, tone 2: When You went down to death, O Life Immortal, * You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity. * When You raised the dead from the nether world, * all the powers of heaven cried out: * “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You!”

Tropar, tone 2: The noble Joseph took down your most pure body from the Cross. * He wrapped it in a clean shroud, * and with fragrant spices laid it in burial in a new tomb. * But You arose in three days, O Lord, * bestowing great mercy upon the world. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Kondak, tone 2: By your Resurrection, O Christ our God, * You told the women bringing ointment to rejoice; * and You stilled the weeping of Eve, the first mother. * You instructed the women to announce to your apostles: * “The Savior has risen from the tomb.”

Prokimen, tone 6: Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I call; O my Rock, be not deaf to me

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 6: 1-7

In those days, as the number of disciples grew, the ones who spoke Greek complained that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food, as compared with the widows of those who spoke Hebrew. The Twelve assembled the community of the disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Look around among your own number, brothers, for seven men acknowledged to be deeply spiritual and prudent, and we shall ap-point them to this task. This will permit us to concentrate on prayer and the ministry of the word.” The proposal was unanimously accepted by the community. Following this they selected Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit; Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, who had been a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who first prayed over them and then imposed hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, while at the same time the number of the disciples in Jerusalem enormously increased. There were many priests among those who embraced the faith.

Alleluia Verses: You have favored, O Lord, your land; you have restored the well-being of Jacob. Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.

Gospel: Mark 15: 43-16: 8

At that time Joseph from Arimathea arrived--a distinguished member of the Sanhedrin. He was another who looked forward to the reign of God. He was bold enough to seek an audience with Pilate and urgently requested the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised that Jesus should have died so soon. He summoned the centurion and inquired whether Jesus was already dead. Pilate released the corpse to Joseph. Then, having bought a linen shroud, Joseph took him down, wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of rock. Finally, he rolled a stone across the entrance of the tomb. Meanwhile, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where he had been laid. When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought perfumed oils with which they intended to go and anoint Jesus. Very early, just after sunrise, on the first day of the week they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, “Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked, they found that the stone had been rolled back (It was a huge one.) On entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, dressed in a white robe. This frightened them thoroughly, but he reassured them: “You need not be amazed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the one who was crucified. He has been raised up; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. Go now and tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him just as he told you.’” They made their way out and fled from the tomb bewildered and trembling: and because of their great fear, they said nothing to anyone.

Instead of ‘It is truly right...’: The angel cried out to the One full of grace: * “O chaste Virgin, rejoice! * And again I say, rejoice! * Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day * and raised the dead.” * Let all people rejoice! * Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, * for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! * Exalt now and be glad, O Sion! * And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight * in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn: Receive the Body of Christ; partake of the source of immortality. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

“**Christ is risen...**” replaces: “Blessed is he who comes...,” ‘We have seen the true light,’ “May our mouths be filled,’ ‘Blessed be the name of the Lord,’ and ‘Glory be to the Father....’ at the dismissal.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, “Christ is risen...” is sung three times, with the addition of “And to us He grants life eternal, let us bow to his third day resurrection.”