

# *The Resurrection of Jesus Christ*

On the third day, which was the Sabbath, after His suffering and death, the Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and came back to life through the power of God. His human body was transformed. His physical body was removed from the tomb without the guards noticing, and without the stone covering the tomb being moved or the Sanhedrin seal being broken. Without knowing it, the guards were guarding an empty tomb.

Suddenly, the earth quaked, the heavens opened, and an angel of God appeared. The stone was rolled away from the tomb and the guards noticed the angel. The angel appeared to be glowing and his clothes were as white as snow. This caused the soldiers to tremble with fear. Being overcome with fear they immediately fled.

The following morning at dawn, Mary Magdalene, Mary Jacob, Salome, and the other women, went to the tomb with perfume to anoint His body. For failing to do so during the funeral, the Church often calls these women "the peacekeepers." They worried that they would not be able to roll the stone away from the tomb because it was very large.

Mary Magdalene was the first to arrive at the grave. It was still dark before dawn. When Mary saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, she immediately ran to Peter and John and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Hearing this, Peter and John immediately ran to the tomb, Mary Magdalene followed them.

At this time, other women arrived to meet Mary Magdalene. They all now witnessed that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. Suddenly, they saw an angel sitting on the stone. The angel, addressed them, saying, "Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen - He is not here. Here is the place where they laid Him down. Go now and tell his disciples and Peter that He will be before you in Galilee, there you will see Him as He told you."

When the astonished women were still standing, two angels suddenly appeared again in shining robes. The angels said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of man should be delivered into the hands of sinners and be crucified, and be resurrected on the third day."

Then the women remembered the words of the Lord. With fear and great joy they went to inform His disciples. On the way, they did not say anything to anyone because they were afraid. When they came to the disciples, the women told them about everything they had seen and heard, but the disciples did not believe them.

Meanwhile, Peter and John fled to the tomb of the Lord. John arrived first. He did not enter the tomb, but rather stood bowing at the entrance. Peter entered the tomb and found the burial shroud on the ground. John then followed, and seeing the shroud, immediately believed in the Resurrection of Christ. Peter still wondered about what had happened.

When Peter and John left, Mary Magdalen, who came after them, remained at the tomb. She stood and cried at the entrance to the cave. The angel said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" Mary Magdalen said to him, "They have taken my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him."

She then turned and Jesus appeared before her. But with her great sorrow and tears, she did not recognize the Lord. Jesus then called her name, "Mary!" Hearing His familiar voice, she recognized that Jesus Christ was before her. She exclaimed, "Master," and rushed to the feet of the Savior with unspeakable joy. But Jesus Christ said to her, "Do not touch Me, for I have not yet come to be with my Father and to my God and your God." This was the first appearance of Christ after the Resurrection.

Then Mary Magdalen hurried off to tell the disciples that she had seen the Lord and what He had told her. On the way, Mary Magdalen caught up with Mary Jacob, who was returning from the Holy Sepulchre. As they were going to inform the disciples, suddenly, Jesus appeared a second time and said to them, "Rejoice!"

They fell at His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Fear not; come tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

When Mary Magdalene and Mary Jacob met with the eleven disciples and told them what they had witnessed, the disciples did not believe.

After that, Jesus appeared for a third time to Peter, as well.

But before all, as the Holy Tradition testifies, Jesus Christ rejoiced in His Most Holy Mother, announcing to her through an angel His resurrection.

This event is so praised by the Holy Church that we continue to sing today:

The angel exclaimed to her, full of grace:

*"Rejoice, O Pure Virgin; again I say, rejoice! Your Son is risen from the grave on the third day and has raised the dead. Let all nations rejoice." Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord is risen upon you, O Sion; sing with joy and rejoice! And you, pure Mother of God, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.*

