

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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May 3, 2020

3rd Sunday after Pascha - Tone 2

Myrrhbearing Women

Ven. Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Caves Monastery



From the Fathers...

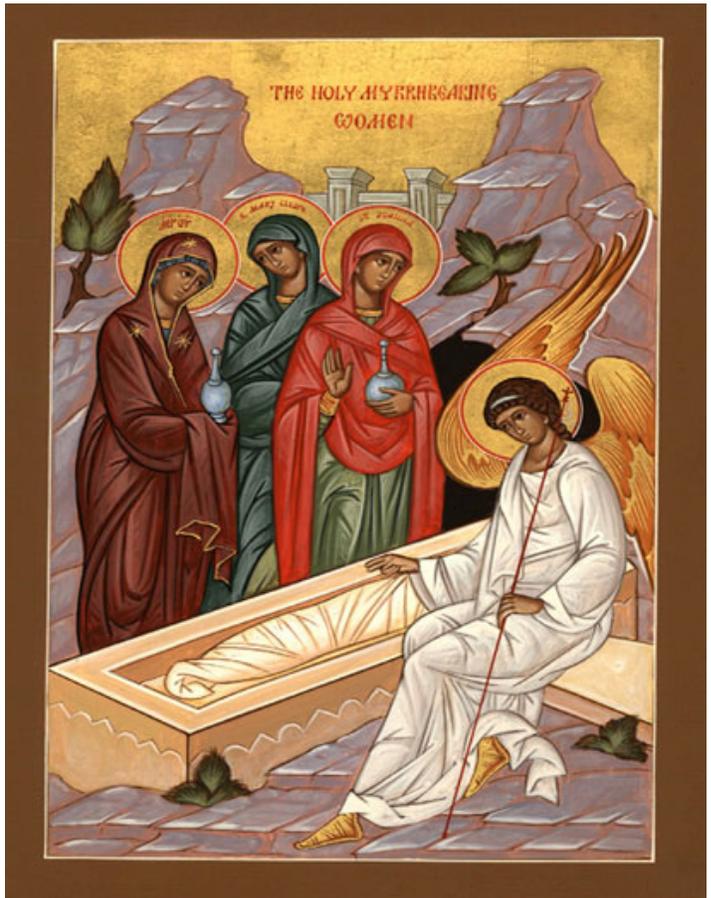
"It is sinful to give up to sadness. We are exiles on earth. Exiles do not wonder at insult and injury. We are under God's penance and a penance consists of deprivations and difficulties. We are ill in soul and body and bitter medicine is useful for the ill"

- St. Theophil of the Kiev Caves



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



Early in the morning,/ the myrrhbearing women brought spices to the tomb of the Lord./ They found the stone unexpectedly rolled away,/ and they asked among themselves:/ "Where are the seals of the tomb?/ Where are Pilate's guards?"/ The radiant Angel came to the wondering women and proclaimed to them:/ "Why seek ye with tears the Life Who gives life to the human race?/ Christ our God has risen from the dead as almighty,// granting us incorruption, life, enlightenment, and great mercy!"

O women disciples,/ why do ye mingle myrrh with your tears?/
The stone is gone; the tomb is empty./ Behold, corruption destroyed by life!/
The seals witness that the guards of the godless have watched in vain./ Mortal nature has been saved by the flesh of God./ Hell is wailing./ Go with joy, and proclaim to the Apostles:/ "Christ has slain death as the first-born of the dead.// He awaits you in Galilee!" (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Resurrection Troparion in Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all
the powers of heaven cried out:// "O Giver of life, Christ
our God, glory to Thee!"

Pentecostarion Troparion in Tone 2

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most
pure Body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen and
anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb. But
Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord, granting the
world great mercy.

Pentecostarion Troparion in Tone 2

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb
and said: "Myrrh is fitting for the dead; but Christ has
shown Himself a stranger to corruption! So proclaim:
'The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.'"

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Pentecostarion Kontakion in Tone 2

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ
God. By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation
of Eve, the first mother. Thou didst command them to preach
to Thine Apostles: "The Savior is risen from the tomb!"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Pascha Kontakion in Tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst
destroy the power of death. In victory Thou didst arise, O
Christ God, proclaiming, "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing
Women, granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing
Resurrection on the fallen.

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples
was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the
Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were
neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve
summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is
not desirable that we should leave the word of God and
serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among
you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy
Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this
business; but we will give ourselves continually to
prayer and to the ministry of the word."

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they
chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,
and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and
Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set
before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they
laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the
disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great
many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member,
who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God,
coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked
for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was

already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him
if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out
from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he
bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in
the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been
hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of
the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of
Josés observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary
the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they
might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on
the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the
sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who
will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been
rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb,
they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting
on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus
of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not
here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His
disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into
Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they
trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to
anyone, for they were afraid.

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, May 3rd

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

3rd Sunday of Pascha—Holy Myrrhbearing Women

Martyrs Timothy the Reader and his wife Maura in Egypt

Ven. Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Caves Monastery

Acts 6:1-7, Mark 15:43-16:8

Monday, May 4th

Virgin Martyr Pelagia of Tarsus in Asia Minor

The Alfanov brethren of Novgorod

Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60, John 4:46-54

Tuesday, May 5th

Great Martyr Irene

Uncovering the Relics of Ven. Jacob of Zheleznoborovsk

Acts 8:5-17, John 6:27-33

Wednesday, May 6th

Righteous Job the Long-suffering

Ven. Micah, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh

Acts 8:18-25, John 6:35-39

Thursday, May 7th

Repose of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor in America

Appearance of the Precious Cross over Jerusalem

Galatians 1:11-19, Acts 8:26-39

John 10:1-9, John 6:40-44

Friday, May 8th

Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian

Ven. Arsenius the Great

1 John 1:1-7, Acts 8:40-9:19

John 19:25-27, 21:24-25, John 6:48-54

Saturday, May 9th

5:00 PM Great Vespers (Livestream)

Prophet Isaiah

Martyr Christopher of Lycia

Translation of Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Acts 9:20-31, John 15:17-16:2

Sunday, May 10th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

4th Sunday of Pascha—Sunday of the Paralytic

Apostle Simeon the Zealot

1 Corinthians 4:9-16, Acts 9:32-42

Matthew 13:54-58, John 5:1-15



Finding Courage



Risk and courage are outstanding elements in the lives of the Myrrhbearing Women and also Joseph of Arimathea, who asked for and buried the body of Jesus Christ.

Picture the women on the way to the tomb of Christ that very early, still-dark morning. It wasn't the safest time of day for a group of unaccompanied females to be on the road under any circumstances. But on this particular morning the Jewish authorities were hyper-vigilant and suspicious, and a detail of guards had been posted at the tomb. There were plenty of reasons for the women simply to be too afraid to go and anoint the Lord's body.

Yet the Gospels tell us that they expressed only one concern: "Who will roll away the stone?" They were intent on doing what was proper for a beloved person who had died, and so they found their courage. Nor did they run away from the angel at the tomb, of whom they were indeed afraid, as Mark 16:8 tells us. They stayed, heard the angel's command, and rushed to carry it out by giving the apostles the good news of the resurrection (Luke 24:9).

Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of the Lord, but a secret one. The Gospels give us a few facts about him. He was a rich man, prominent in the community, and a member of the Sanhedrin, the council of Jewish leaders. It was due to his public visibility and his position as a council member that he kept his discipleship secret.

So Joseph was probably not a person of great courage. Like many people with much to lose, he was not going to risk his place and possessions readily. Yet while the disciples fled and hid, Joseph stepped forward and declared himself a loving friend of the Lord at the moment when it was most dangerous to do so.

Pontius Pilate had just condemned Jesus Christ to death. There had been no public outcry of protest; His followers were demoralized, fearful, and silent. Even Pilate—perhaps especially Pilate, with his self-protective and hesitant nature—must have been impressed by the bravery of this man coming forward, alone, to ask for the body of the executed preacher.

The Gospels tell us that Joseph was a good and just man, and had not consented to the Sanhedrin's decision to condemn Jesus. This was an act of fortitude. But asking for the body was even more of a risk, because it brought him to the notice of the Romans and of his fellow Jewish leaders, most of whom had wanted Jesus to die. Only by "taking courage," as Luke writes, could Joseph make such a request.

The danger faced by the Myrrhbearing Women as they walked to the tomb was real. So was the fear of losing position and security faced by Joseph. But they all found their courage, because they were "waiting for the Kingdom of God" (Mark 15:45). They saw that Kingdom in Jesus Christ, and fear would never be able to hold them back again.

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Guidance for COVID-19

Livestream Services

All of these services will be **live streamed on Facebook** and finished recordings will be **uploaded to YouTube**. **Like, Share, Subscribe** to both to be notified when new postings are available. The schedule is also available online at our website.

When the "all clear" is given, the Archbishop will designate a Sunday on which we will celebrate in full Paschal Matins and Liturgy, regardless of what time of year it actually is.

Attendance at Services

Attendance at services is **limited only to those who need to be there**: the priest, a server, a reader, and a chanter. By directive of the Holy Synod there are signs on the entrances to both the church and the hall indicating that "no one may enter the building without the express blessing of the parish priest, due to the Covid-19 pandemic".

Confessions and Visitations

By directive of the Holy Synod, a blessing has been extended to forgo confession at this time. Due to restrictions put in place by hospitals, visitations are limited only to those who are very sick or dying.

Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin sponsorships are still available, even in our current digital world. Sponsorships can be emailed directly to Fr. Gregory and can be paid online through tithe.ly on our website.

Stewardship

We encourage you to continue giving your regular offerings during this time. Please review our new online giving option now available on our website!

Heartbeat of Toledo

Heartbeat of Toledo has been forced to cancel their upcoming fundraiser in April and have been hit particularly hard with the recent economic downturn. Donation can be sent to the church and made out to St. George Cathedral (memo line "Heartbeat of Toledo").

New Look for stgeorgerossford.org

Have you seen our new website? After many months of diligent work, the new website is finally live. Please take time to take a look and explore the new features. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Prayer Calendar

The Quarterly prayer calendar is now available online at: www.stgeorgerossford.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Prayer-Calendar-Q2.pdf

We are praying for...

Health and Well-Being:

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Catechumens:

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp is lit today by Sally Grether for the health and salvation of my Church Family.



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Mila Edelman (5/3)
Dan Ostas, Jr (5/5)

Name's Days:

Emmelia Ghareeb (5/8)
Chris Timofeev (5/9)
Christopher Ghareeb (5/9)

Anniversaries:

Consecration of
Archbishop ALEXANDER (5/5)

