

Sunday, April 30, 2023
Third Sunday of Pascha-Tone 2
Holy Myrrhbearing Women
Holy Apostle James

Troparion:

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!

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 rise on the third day, O Lord, granting the world great mercy.

As a soldier of the Lord you were ranked among the choir of apostles. Together with your brother, O James, you clung wholeheartedly to the Savior. Armed with the power of the Spirit you preached him to all and were slain by the sword. Therefore we sing your praises!

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

Kontakion:

You heard the voice of God calling you and turned away from the love of your father. With your brother you hastened after Christ, O glorious James. With him, you were counted worthy to behold the Lord's divine Transfiguration!

Thou didst command the myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ! By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, O God! Thou didst command Thy apostles to preach: The Savior is risen!

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
(Vs.) To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

Tone 8 (St. James):

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Epistle:

The reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (Acts 6:1-7)

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Proch'orus, and Nica'nor, and Ti'mon, and Par'menas, and Nicola'us, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

In those days, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up

quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." (Acts 12:1-11)

Alleluia Verses:

Lord, Thou hast been gracious to Thy land; Thou hast turned back the captivity of Jacob.
(Vs.) Mercy and truth have met, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Tone 1 (St. James):

The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints!

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark. (Chapter 15:43-16:8)

At that time there came Joseph, the one from Arimathea, a councilor of high rank, who was himself looking for the kingdom of God. And he went in boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. But Pilate wondered whether He had expired so soon. And sending for the centurion, he asked him whether He was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was, he granted the body to Joseph. And He bought a linen cloth, and took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. Then He rolled a stone to the entrance of the tomb. But Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jose were looking on and saw where He was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, in order to go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb, when the sun had just risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?" And looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back – now, it was very large. But on entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see Him, as He told you." And they left and fled from the tomb, for trembling and fear had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

At that time Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats moored by the lake, but the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. And getting into one of the boats, the one that was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And sitting down, He began to teach the crowds from the boat. But when He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and lower your nets for a catch." And Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, the whole night through we have toiled and have taken nothing; but at your word I will lower the net." And when they had done so, they caught a great number of fishes, but their net was breaking. And they called to their comrades in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord," For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had made; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you shall catch men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left all and followed Him.