

**Sunday, May 16, 2021**  
**Third Sunday of Pascha-Tone 2**  
**Holy Myrrhbearing Women**

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.

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:

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!

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death! In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming "Rejoice" to the myrrhbearing women, granting peace to Thy apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

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.

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.

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.

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.