

:: The Resurrection Accounts ::
Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon
(from Touchstone Magazine, April 2005)

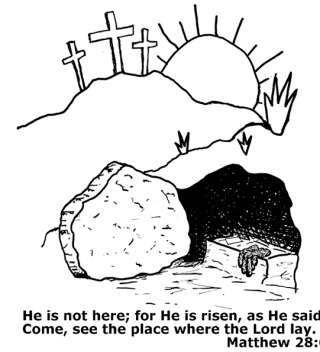
The Gospel stories of the Lord's Resurrection, viewed from a historical perspective, are difficult to reconcile with one another. Indeed, the differences in detail among them are perhaps more extensive than in any other stories in the Gospels. Matthew and Mark, for instance, seem familiar with no apparitions of the risen Jesus to the apostles except in Galilee, while Luke and John describe such apparitions taking place in Jerusalem. Likewise, just how many angels were there at the empty tomb? And how many times did Jesus appear to Mary Magdalene? Such discrepancies are both numerous and perplexing.

I believe, however, that this inconsistency among the Resurrection reports, far from being an argument against their historicity, tends rather to favor it. That is to say, the jumble and disarray of the post-Resurrection accounts would be even more difficult to explain if those stories were deliberately fabricated to support a fraud. Fraudulent conspiracies are normally better organized. The tangled details in these stories are more readily explained, rather, as the varied responses we might expect among the friends of a man who rose from the dead one morning and came back to tell them about it! The narrative confusion itself indicates an underlying event of bewilderment and disorientation. ...

Who was not named in Paul's list of the Resurrection's official witnesses? The women! But when we turn to the Gospels themselves, it is the myrrh-bearing women who are most prominent in the Resurrection stories. They are the first to see the risen Lord, and the apostles, whom Paul lists as the official witnesses, are described as skeptical of the women's report (Matt. 28:17; Mark 16:9–11; Luke 24:11,22–24). We read, for instance, "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene" (Mark 16:9). In the official list in 1 Corinthians 15, Mary Magdalene is not even mentioned.

That is to say, the interest and concern of the four Gospels seems to be less apologetic and more theological and devotional. What we have in the Gospels are the Church's cherished memories of that first Paschal morning and the delirious ensuing days of the new spring. We learn of Mary Magdalene's sentient recognition of Jesus' voice speaking her own name, the mysterious experience of the two disciples along the road and at the inn, and that morning encounter at the lakeside. We behold the Lord's feet embraced by those lying prostrate in his worship. We see that trembling finger extended to touch the wounded hand. These are the stories of believers meeting their risen Lord in the intimacy of worship and the sacraments.

Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Wednesday each week to Fr. Andrew, by email or phone. If you are not on the church's email list and would like to be, please let Fr. Andrew know.



St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley

211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362
www.stgeorgeorthodox.org
815-664-4540 (church office)

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler
frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org
773-575-3272 (cell)

Sunday, April 26, 2015 – Third Sunday of Pascha The Myrrh-Bearing Women, Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus

Matins: 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM
Today's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Sadie Malooley / Leonard family
Epistle Reader: Chris Leonard
Next Week: 40-day memorial for Marian Kaleel

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou, O Immortal Life, didst humble Thyself unto death, then Thou didst destroy death by the brightness of Thy Godhead. And when Thou didst raise the dead from the bowels of the earth, all the Heavenly powers exclaimed: 'O Christ, Thou art the Giver of life! Glory to Thee, O our God!'

Troparion for St. Joseph of Arimathea (Tone 2): The pious Joseph, having brought down Thy pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen, embalmed it with ointment, provided for it, and laid it in a new tomb. But Thou didst verily rise after three days, O Lord, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion for the Myrrh-Bearing Women (Tone 2): Verily, the angel came to the tomb and said to the ointment-bearing women, the ointment is meet for the dead, but Christ is shown to be remote from corruption. But cry ye: The Lord is risen, granting the world the great mercy.

Troparion of St. George the Great Martyr (Tone 4): Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org

sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8): Though Thou, O Deathless One, didst descend into the grave, Thou didst destroy the power of hell and as Victor Thou didst rise again, O Christ our God. Thou didst greet the ointment-bearing women, saying: “Rejoice!” Thou didst bestow peace upon Thy disciples and resurrection upon those that are fallen.

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (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 Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, 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.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the Kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where He was laid. And when the Sabbath was passed, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He has 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 to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, www.stgeorgeorthodox.org.

Upcoming Events and Services:

- **Sunday School** for children and teens will take place immediately after Holy Communion today.
- **This Wednesday, April 29:** Our weekly evening prayer and Bible study group will resume, beginning at 6pm. All are welcome to come, ask, discuss, and participate!
- **Saturday, May 2:** Vespers, 6pm

From Fr. Andrew and Kh. Patty: Blessed Pascha to all of you! We thank you for all the cards and generous gifts you have given to our family this holy season. Again, we are overwhelmed by your love and hospitality.

Congratulations to Chris and Melissa Leonard and all of their family, at the baptism yesterday of their son **Grant Anthony**. May God grant him many years!

Congratulations also to Matthew and Olly Rowan, at the birth of their son **Andrew Ivan**, this past Thursday. He was born not only on the feast day of St. George, but on the fifth birthday of his older sister! Father Andrew visited them in Peoria, and is happy to report mom and baby are doing very well. God grant them many years!

A note on the Lenten coin boxes: As a parish we gave to this charity of our Archdiocese \$690.00 in 2014. Congratulations! This was the best ever. This is our most important outreach charity we are asked to support. We need to match this amount once again and it is my hope you will too! Please look at the report in our most recent copy of the Word. We are now \$250.00 dollars short of this goal. Thank you to all who have given thus far those coins add up! **Please have this most important gift to the treasury by May 3rd.** Thank you so much. Christ is Risen!

Anysia Medawar, Treasurer

Please make checks to St. George church earmarked “Food For Hungry People”

Summer Conventions. Mark your calendars: Our **Diocesan Parish Life Conference** will be held in Grand Rapids, MI, June 24-28 this year, and the national Archdiocese Convention is July 20-28 in Boston.
