



Informal Online Family Communion For Easter Day





The Two Marys at the Tomb

Bartolomeo Schedoni, 1613 - Collection of Galleria Nazionale, Parma

Bartolomeo Schedoni showed great promise as an artist, yet died at only age 37, possibly by committing suicide after accumulating large debts. His body of work was modest in scale yet significant in both its artistic and emotional power; it also shows the influence of Caravaggio in placing brightly illuminated characters against dark backgrounds, often in dramatic settings.

While titled 'The Two Marys...', this scene (drawn directly from the sparse account of their early morning visit to Jesus' tomb in Mark 16:1-8) actually depicts three women: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the apostle James and Salome. Their mission, as indicated by the jar of ointment one is holding, was to anoint Jesus' body. Mark recounts that they were troubled en route by the challenge of rolling back the large stone at the entrance to his tomb.

Instead, to their astonishment, on arrival they find the stone removed and encounter an unknown young man dressed in white, who reassures them they have no cause for alarm. He delivers the extraordinary news that Jesus, devastatingly crucified just two days previously, 'has been raised; he is not here.' Their bewildered reaction to this clear message is conveyed physically: with the dawn light behind them and therefore their faces shadowed, their opened arms express their shock and they each look in a different direction, as if still searching for the missing body.

Meanwhile the young man (actually an angel, as demonstrated by his visible wing) is entirely calm, with his right arm extended with serene, strong confidence to point upwards, reinforcing his verbal report that Jesus has risen. Indeed his index finger extends outside the boundary of the image, perhaps to underline that Jesus is now in Heaven and not this world. A new source of light – glorious and supernatural – also breaks through the darkened clouds behind him as further confirmation of a wholly unexpected outcome as well as of fresh hope.

However familiar the story of that morning is to us, perhaps on this Easter day in 2020 we can recognise anew how radical, yet also how reassuring, Jesus' promise in John 11:25-26 is – 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Alleluia! Christ is risen:
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The minister welcomes everyone

Hymn - When I survey the wondrous cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

Listen, for the Lord who created you says:

I forgive you,

forgive others,

forgive yourself,

be at peace.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

Hymn - Jesus Christ is ris'n today

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Talk

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles;
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

At the end...

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayer
For the sake of your Son
Our Saviour Jesus Christ
Amen**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
And said, 'Peace be with you'
Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.
Alleluia

Preparation of the Table

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
In your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away

You did not reject us

But came to meet us in your Son

You embraced us as your children

And welcomed us to sit and eat with you

In Christ you shared our life

Than we might live in him and he in us

He opened his arms of love upon the cross

And made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin

On the night he was betrayed

At supper with his friends

He took bread, and gave you thanks

He broke it and gave it to them, saying;

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

Do this in remembrance of me

Father, we do this in remembrance of him

His body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,

He gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,

Which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;

Do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him:

His blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
Send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
May be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
Make us one in Christ, our risen Lord**

With your whole Church throughout the world
We offer you this sacrifice of praise
And lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Prayer after Communion

We say this prayer together

**God of Life,
Who for our redemption did give your only begotten Son
To the death of the cross,
And by his glorious resurrection
Has delivered us from the power of our enemy
Grant us so to die daily to sin
That we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen**

Notices

Worship Song - Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son:
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love:
bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]

The Dismissal

The peace of God
Which passes all understanding
Keep your hearts and minds
In the knowledge and love of God,
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Materials for this service were taken from:
Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England ;CHP 2000*