



Informal Online Family Communion For Easter Season





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 Lord be with you
And also with you

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

The minister welcomes everyone

Hymn - Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns, adore him

Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns, adore him;
Praise him angels, in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him;
Praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! for he has spoken;
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;
Never shall his promise fail;
God has made his saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation!
Hosts on high his pow'r proclaim;
Heav'n, and earth, and all creation,
Laud and magnify his name.

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto thee;
Young and old, thy praise expressing,
In glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heav'n adore thee,
We would bow before thy throne;
As thine angels serve before thee,
So on earth thy will be done.

Prayers of Penitence

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

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

Lord, hear us and forgive 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 forgive us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and forgive us.

Listen, for the Lord who created you says:
I forgive you,
forgive others,
forgive yourself,
be at peace.

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Acts 7: 55-end

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

John 14: 1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Sermon

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

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,

at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise.

Holy father, heavenly king

almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ, your son our Lord.

For he is your living word,

Through him you have created all things from the beginning
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross.

You raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through Him you have sent upon us your holy and lifegiving spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,

In your great and glorious name

Forever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

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 forever. 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

Eternal God who's son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life
Grant us to walk in His way
To rejoice in His truth
And to share His risen life
Who is alive and reigns now and forever
Amen

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**

Hymn – Love Divine

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
'til in heav'n we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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*