



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 2021 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 - Jesus lives! thy terrors now

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! our hearts know well,
naught from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia.

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 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.

Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Gospel Reading - John 20:19-29
Read by Tim Clapp

Sermon

The Apostle's 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 – John Barber

At the end we say

Merciful Father
**Accept these prayer
For the sake of your Son
Our Saviour Jesus Christ
Amem**

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
And also with you

No sign of peace is exchanged except between households

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,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
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,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
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 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

The minister and people receive communion. Please sanitise your hands on the way up and the way back from receiving communion.

Please remember that no words are said at the distribution and the bread is dropped into the hands.

Anyone who worships at a church which recognizes the Holy Trinity, at which they are permitted to take communion, may receive it here.

Gluten free wafers available – please indicate your preference.

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

Hymn – Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's domains
the long-imprisoned dead.

Triumphant in his glory now
his sceptre ruleth all;

earth, heaven and hell before him bow
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
into his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost to thee,
while endless ages run.
Alleluia, Amen.

The Dismissal

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
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!

**The hymns for this service were recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of
St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes, and edited together.**

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