



Parish Communion Easter Time





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 spare 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.

Hymn – In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied –
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,

Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Reading - 1 John 5:1-6
Read by Judith Mezger

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reading - John 15:9-17
Read by David Poole

Alleluia, alleluia
I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one:
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you. O Lord

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession
Nicky Barber

At the end we say

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers
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 were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels
And with all the company of heaven,
We laud and magnify thy glorious name,
Evermore 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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of
Mary, to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he 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.

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 and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your
right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us
the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
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

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and 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

God's holy gifts
For God's holy people
**Jesus Christ is holy
Jesus Christ is Lord
To the glory of God the Father**

Prayer after Communion

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Notices

Hymn – O Jesus, I have promised

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:

O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Blessing

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.

Dismissal

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

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

This booklet is for use in the Parish of Itchen Valley, which comprises the churches of St Mary's Avington, St John the Baptist, Itchen Abbas, St Mary's Easton and St Swithun's Martyr Worthy

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