

Class Structure

04/30/23

- 1: Sing Christ has Risen English & Greek**
- 2: Lords Prayer English & Greek**
- 3: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation**
- 4: St Gabriel the fool for Christ talk to the class about him.**
- 5: Read the Creed to learn in Greek & English**
- 6: Play Cross of Christ game (*if have extra time*)**

1: Sing Christ has Risen English & Greek

2: Lords Prayer English & Greek (*Pray with class*)

3: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation

The Gospel for 04/30/2023

(Get a Student to Read) Ask who wants to read the Gospel

Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8 (*New King James Version*)

In this gospel reading, we read in the first part Jesus died and was put in the tomb. In the second part, he has risen. Many people need clarification about when Jesus died and when he rose from the dead. Before I explain this, you must understand how to look at time. In **Genesis 1:3-5** 3 God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. As it says, darkness was before the light, so the evening is the beginning of the first day and ends at the evening of the next day. God described it this way, and this is how The Orthodox Church sees the days in the services and books like this. It says in **Matthew 12:40**, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." If Jesus was crucified on Wednesday and died on Wednesday night, which according to The Orthodox Church is Thursday, and was dead on Friday and Saturday in body only, then he rose on Sunday, showing he was dead three days and then rose from the dead.

Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb

42 Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,

Here the scripture is telling us it is Friday.

43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

During Jesus's crucifixion most of the Apostles ran from fear. They were scared that they might be targeted and crucified because of their belief in Jesus Christ. Joseph was well known to

the people and the rulers because he was a prominent council member who was looking for the kingdom of God, but demonstrated his courage by asking Pilate for the body of Jesus.

44 Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time.

Pilate did not want to trust that he was dead so he summoned the centurion to verify he was dead. We read in the Gospel that the centurion verified that Jesus was dead to the point of not breaking his legs, fulfilling the prophecy that not a bone will be broken.

45 So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

46 Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joseph observed where He was laid.

The tomb that Jesus was laid in was Joseph's tomb. Joseph loved Christ so much he gave up his burial place for him and told the world.

He Is Risen

16 :1 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

Here the scriptures say the Sabbath had passed this means it is Sunday. The women came to honor Christ with spices and anoint him showing their love for him.

2 Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

Darkness represents death, but here the scripture tells us the time is early in the morning and the sun is rising, prefiguring Jesus the Son of God rising. It says the first day of the week which now becomes the Lord's day

3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

With the tomb being our heart we must ask ourselves as the women did who will roll away the stone from the door of our heart, allowing us to open our hearts to love as Christ did.

4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large.

As Christ removed the stone from the tomb he removes it from our hearts as well he shows us a better way to live and gives us hope for life eternal with him.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

When we experience this, the sin from our soul is removed and, the Holy Spirit begins to work in us.

6 But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

The angel spoke to the women as the Holy Spirit speaks within us. He said do not be alarmed, reassuring them that Christ has risen. He says, see the place where they laid Him. As we saw a week earlier, Christ raised Lazarus from the dead after four days, so it should not be hard to believe Jesus has risen, especially after he told them what would happen multiple times.

7 But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

Now as Christians, just as the angel says go tell His disciple, we must go and tell the world. He specifically said His disciples and Peter. Peter is pointed out because he denied Christ three times. This made Peter feel flawed and unworthy, but the angel included Peter so he would know he was still loved and welcomed.

8 So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

After this encounter, the women were scared and amazed as we would be if we were visited by an angel of the Lord and told someone had risen from the dead. When Christ died, he went to hell like every human before him. The difference is that he went willingly and without sin as a sacrifice, and as God, he could liberate those in hell and bring them out. That is why the old man of sin dies and is buried in the water when we are baptized into Christ. Then, as we come out, we are resurrected in Christ, and from that time forth, we should strive to be like Jesus. As the stone was moved from the tomb, so does Christ remove the sins through grace and helps us to live when we repent and follow his teachings.

4: St Gabriel the fool for Christ talk to the class about him.

5: Read the Creed to learn in Greek & English

6: Play Cross of Christ game (if have extra time)