

Life-Giving Love

Resurrection of Jesus

Matthew 28

Fr. Leonard Andrie
Church of St. Therese



The Angelus

P: The Angel of the Lord
declared unto Mary

R: And she conceived of the
Holy Spirit.

P: Behold the handmaid of the
Lord

R: Be it done unto me
according to Thy word.

P: And the Word was made Flesh

R: And dwelt among us.

P: Pray for us, O Holy Mother
of God

R: That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Together: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.

Burial of Jesus

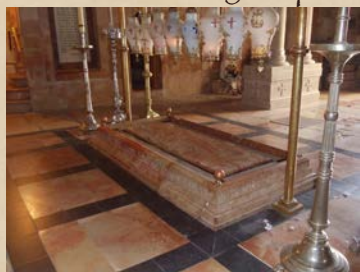
- **Joseph of Arimathea:** Matthew tell us that he is a disciple of Jesus. He also tells us that he is rich.
- **Is. 53:9:** And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence.
- **Asked for the body:** According to Deut. 21:23, a "corpse shall not remain on the tree overnight. You shall bury it the same day."
- **Clean linen cloth:** Greek word is *sindon*, which is sometimes translated "shroud" and identified as the Shroud of Turin. (Harrington, 405)
- **Jn 19:40:** Jesus was wrapped in linen cloths. (cf. Lk 2:7)

The Entombment



The entombment - Garofalo (1520)

Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Stone of Anointing (or unction)

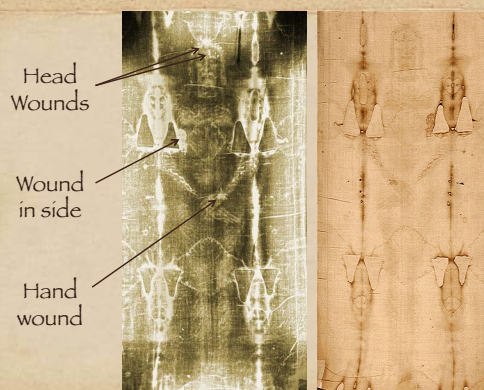
Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Mosaic of Jesus' Preparation for Burial –
Faces Stone of Anointing

Shroud of Turin

- Centuries old linen cloth that bears the image of a crucified man. A man millions believe to be Jesus of Nazareth. (shroud.com)
- The Shroud is the single most studied artifact in human history. (shroud.com)
- In 1532, the Shroud suffered from a devastating fire. It was damaged by the metal reliquary it was kept in. The Poor Clares of Chambéry mended it by applying triangular patches.
- Survived a fire in 1997 and underwent major restoration in 2002.
- The Shroud was on exhibit from April 19 – June 24, 2015



Shroud of Turin



Shroud of Turin in the Turin Cathedral

Burial of Jesus

- Notice how detailed Matthew's account is concerning Jesus' burial. Such details include:
 - Wrapped in clean linen (Jesus really died)
 - New tomb (tomb set apart)
 - Huge stone (protected from thieves)
 - Mary Magdalene and other Mary (witnesses)
- Why is he so detailed?
 - Mitch and Sri propose that Matthew is preparing to show the reliability of the resurrection account in chapter 28. Addressing wrong tomb or someone stole the body (363).

Imaginary Conversation

- | Opponent | Matthew |
|---|---|
| Did Jesus really die? | A Roman guard kept watch over him; [wrapped in cloth] |
| Was there a mix-up in tombs? | Women saw where he was buried |
| The disciples stole the body to confirm Jesus' prophecy | The disciples fled; they were nowhere in sight |
| Someone else stole the body | A large stone was rolled before the tomb; it was sealed |
| Soldiers fell asleep | They were bribed to say that
~Allison, 885 |

Guard at the Tomb

- Day of Preparation:** Refers to Friday, the day before the Sabbath. Thus, the "next day" is Saturday, the Sabbath.
- This was a highly unusual day for Jewish leaders to approach Pilate. Such a move underscores their sense of urgency and fear. (Mitch & Sri, 364)
- Note:** The text does not state how the Pharisees and scribes knew that Jesus said, "After three days I will be raised up."
- Fixing a Seal:** Possibly a wax seal to indicate that if broken the tomb had been opened. (Mitch & Sri, 364)

Fulfillment of Ps. 2

- **Ps. 2:1:** Why do the nations protest and the peoples conspire in vain?
 - We see the theme of human weakness versus divine power woven throughout the Bible, but particularly in 27:62-6.
 - Jesus' opponents take every precaution to prevent proclamation of the Resurrection: They seal the stone and set a guard.
 - But their efforts are futile. "The one who sits in heaven laughs." (Ps. 2:4)
- Human beings cannot oppose earthquakes and angels and the power of God. ~Allison, 885.

Resurrection of Jesus



Raffaellino del Garbo (1510)

Death is swallowed up in Victory. (1 Cor. 15:54)

Preliminary Remarks

- The Resurrection substantiates all that Jesus said and did. Without the Resurrection, Jesus' claims and mission would be an utter failure.
- Jesus' Resurrection is the cause of our Resurrection.
 - **1 Cor. 15:17-18:** If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
- Eternal life is not inherent, but rather a gift made possible because of Jesus' death and Resurrection!



Preliminary Remarks

- Jesus' Resurrection is the pattern of our own resurrection.
- There is both continuity and discontinuity between His earthly life and Resurrected life. In other words, Jesus remains Himself, but is freed from the limitations of this world.
- **Continuity:** Jesus has a body that can be seen, touch, and even eat. Even the nail marks and wound in His side have not healed. (Jn. 20:27) The Risen Christ is the crucified Christ.
- **Discontinuity:** Jesus can pass through grave clothes (Jn. 20:5-7), doors (Jn. 20:19, 26), and can seemingly appear (Mk. 16:12, 14; Jn. 20:19, 26) and disappear (Lk. 24:31) at will. Christ's Risen body has new properties.

Jesus is Risen!

- The Resurrection verifies everything Jesus said and did.
- Matthew provides details to underscore the historical reliability of the Resurrection. This includes:
 - **Discovery of the empty tomb**
 - **Appearance of an angel**
 - **Seeing and touching of the Risen Messiah**
- For Matthew, the Resurrection is the fulcrum of history. As a saving message, it is intended for all nations to hear and embrace. ~Mitch & Sri, 365

At the Tomb

- **Sabbath:** Sundown Good Friday to sundown on Holy Saturday.
- **First day of the Week:** Sunday morning
- **Mary Magdalene & other Mary:** Witness Jesus' agony (27:55-56) and His interment in the sepulcher (27:61). (Mitch & Sri, 366)
- **Angel's appearance:** Reminiscent of Jesus' transfiguration (17:2)
- **Like dead men:** It is not Jesus who is dead, but the guards who are 'like dead men.' (Allison, 885)

At the Tomb

- **Guards were shaken:** Understandable given the cataclysmic event that just occurred and heavenly figure before them
- **He has been raised:** "Has been raised" is a divine passive, meaning that God is the implied subject who performs the action. (Mitch & Sri, 367)
- However, the Resurrection is the work of the entire Trinity.
 - **Jn 10:18: 18:** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.
 - **CCC 648:** In the [Resurrection], the three divine persons act together as one, and manifest their own proper characteristics.

At the Tomb

- **Come and See:** The women are invited to see the empty tomb.



Looking In



Inside Tomb Looking Out

At the Tomb Today



A candle light procession around the tomb

Women & Guards

Women

- Gather at Jesus' tomb
- See an angel
- Feel Fear
- Leave tomb to tell others
- Told what to say to others
- **Difference:** Tell the truth

Guards

- Gather at the tomb
- See an angel
- Feel fear (like dead men)
- Leave tomb to tell others
- Told what to say to others
- **Difference:** Lie about the disciples ~Allison, 885

Carrying the Message

- **Go quickly and tell my disciples:** The women are to be "apostles to the apostles," the first to bear the message of the Resurrection to others.
- **Did him homage:** The proper stance toward the risen Lord – Matthew shapes his story to emphasize worship as the proper attitude toward Jesus. (Harrington, 410)
- **My brothers:** Hints that Christ has forgiven his closest friends. While all abandoned Him, Jesus calls them to form His spiritual family here on earth. (Mitch & Sri, 368)
- **Ps 22:23:** Then I will proclaim your name to my brethren, in the assembly I will praise you.

For Us

- We can certainly see ourselves in each of the characters in the Resurrection narrative.
- **Mary Magdalene & Other Mary:** Like them, when we endure suffering and the absence of Jesus, we seek to be close to Jesus. This requires finding time (e.g., early in the morning) to be alone so that we can seek Jesus.
- **Guards:** Shaken with fear and feel like dead people!
- Regardless of feeling (fearful, yet overjoyed), we must allow Christ to encounter us so that we may peacefully (do not be afraid) and energetically (they ran) proclaim that Jesus is Risen! In doing so, our hope and prayer is that others, too, will "embrace his feet, and do him homage." (28:9)

The Guard Reports

- Everyone agreed that the tomb was empty – women, guards, and the chief priests. The reasons or meaning why the tomb is empty must be established.
 - Jesus is Risen as predicted (16:21; 17:23; 20:19)
 - The disciples came and stole the body (i.e., not risen)
- Parable of the Sower:** Some seed fell on the path (13:19)
- Chief priests & elders:** Their opposition to Jesus as Messiah continues in that they refuse to believe.
- Guards:** Accept large sum of money in exchange for lying.

The Guard Reports

- Stole him while we were asleep:** Apparently, the religious authorities did not spend much time coming up with this story.
- For example, how could the soldiers claim to know what happened if they were all asleep when the hoax was perpetrated? (Mitch & Sri, 369)
- Satisfy him:** The chief priests and elders are confident that Pilate, who has already demonstrated his penchant for pleasing people, will go along with the story.



Two Periods

- The end of Matthew's Gospel seeks to combine two important periods in salvation history:
 - Jesus' time on earth:** His whole ministry (i.e., all that He taught and did)
 - Post-Easter Church:** Commission of baptizing (i.e., whole sacramental economy) and teaching all that Jesus commanded them (i.e., liturgy of Word & liturgy of Eucharist)
- While the two periods are very different, both have the same Lord and the same mission. (Allison, 885)
- Pope Leo the Great:** All that is visible in the life of Christ has passed into His mysteries. (*Sermons* 74.2)

Lazarus & Jesus

Lazarus

- Lazarus was revived on the fourth day after his death
- Four:** Things of earth
- Tomb was opened, then he was revived
- Many witnessed the resuscitation
- Lazarus died again

Jesus

- Jesus was raised on the third day after His death
- Three:** Things of heaven
- Tomb was closed when He rose from the dead
- No one witnessed Christ's Resurrection
- Christ lives forever (www.newtheologicalmovement.blogspot.org)

Commissioning

- Galilee:** The story comes full circle. Jesus grew up in Galilee (2:22-23). He recruited His disciples there (4:18-22). The message of salvation first began in Galilee (4:12-17). (Mitch & Sri, 370)
- They worshipped:** Reminds us of the proper attitude toward the Risen Jesus (i.e., women "did Him homage" - 28:9).
- Some doubted:** Can be rendered "but some doubted" or "some hesitated." (Harrington, 414)
- The disciples either struggled in coming to believe or there was a division among them (some believe, while others doubt).

Commissioning

- All Power:** A fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy where one like a Son of Man reaches the Ancient of Days and is invested with God's authority.
 - Daniel 7:14:** He received dominion, splendor, and kingship, all nations, peoples and tongues will serve him.
- Go, therefore:** Invested with God's authority, Jesus now confers a missionary mandate on the eleven. (Mitch & Sri, 370)
- Evangelization is no longer restricted to the "House of Israel" as it was during the earthly ministry of Jesus (10:6; 15:24). (Mitch & Sri, 371)

Commissioning

- **Make Disciples:** Jesus gives the instruction of "making disciples." What does it mean to be a disciple?
 - Disciple is one who listens to Jesus (17:5)
 - Learns from Him how to live (11:28-30)
 - How to pray (6:9-13)
 - What is pleasing to the Father (3:17)
- In short, it is a total way of life – a commitment to pattern our actions and decisions after the example set by Jesus.

~Mitch & Sri, 3/1

Commissioning

- **Baptizing them:** The first step in the long process of sanctification and participation in the life of the Church. (Hahn & Mitch, 71)
- **Name of:** Notice that it is not "names," but rather "name." In other words, the **name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit reveals the unity of God's inner life and singleness of nature. (Hahn & Mitch, 71)
- Given that there has been no specific instructions about baptism up to this point, we can safely assume the early Church was already accustomed to using this baptismal formula for bringing people into the Church.

Joy of the Gospel

- An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!
- Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that "delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing, even when it is in tears that we must sow..."
- And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ." Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 10.

For us

- There are a few keys to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ
 - **A faithful life of prayer:** We cannot give what we do not have; prayer provides patience, courage, and joy.
 - **A reasonable knowledge of our faith:** We do not have to have all the answers, but a good foundation.
 - **A willingness to ask hard questions:** What makes you happy? In what way is Jesus a part of that?
 - **Joy:** Everyone wants pleasure. More deeply, everyone wants happiness. Most deeply, everyone wants joy. (Peter Kreeft)

Presence of Jesus

- **I am with you always:** This forms an inclusion with the name "Emmanuel" ("God with us") in Matt. 1:22-23.
- Jesus, fully aware of the challenges of evangelization, reassures that He will always be with the Church.
- In the end, it is the Risen Jesus who evangelizes, teaches, and baptizes (i.e., any of the sacraments).
- **Until the end of the age:** The promise envisions a division between "this age" (world) and the "age (world) to come." (Harrington, 415)
- In what ways is this promise fulfilled?



Presence of Jesus



Word



Saints



Poor



Holy Orders



Eucharist



Family

Presence of Jesus

- **Jesus' final promise:** "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" is foundational for the Church!
- Jesus Christ is the sacrament of God – a visible sign and cause of God's presence.
- The Church is the sacrament of Jesus Christ – a visible sign and cause of Jesus' Presence.
- The Church is the visible sign and embodiment of Christ today. Life of Jesus is in the Church and animates it.
- **Church:** Perpetuates the presence of Christ!



Bark of Peter

Jesus – captain at the rudder

Holy Spirit – wind blows forward

Apostles – foundation upon which the Church is built



Notre Dame Cathedral



Island is shaped like a boat

Jesus at Work

- **Pope Leo the Great:** All that is visible in the life of Christ has passed into His mysteries. (*Sermons* 74.2)
- **St. Ambrose:** You have shown yourself to me face to face, O Christ, I find you in your sacraments. (*Apology of the Prophet David*, 12)
- **Pope Benedict XVI:** Wherever you gather for Mass, when you go to Confession, whenever you celebrate any of the sacraments, Jesus is at work.
- Through the Holy Spirit, He draws you to Himself, into His sacrificial love of the Father which becomes love for all. (*To Youth & Seminarians*, 2008)

Storms Will Come

- While Jesus as at the rudder, sometimes it appears as if He is asleep.
- **Matt. 8:24-25:** Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm.
- The ship has long been a symbol of the Church, an image coming from the ark which saved Noah's family.



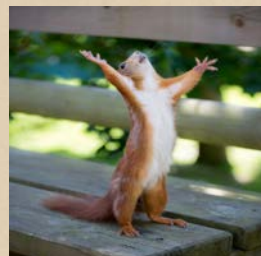
Sea of Galilee – Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1633)

Storms Will Come

- Oftentimes, the bark of Peter is tossed about by the waves of disbelief, worldliness, immorality, and persecution.
- Jesus, like Jonah before Him, oftentimes appears asleep as the boat is tossed about from one side to another.
- In times like these, there is great temptation like the disciples to panic and cry out, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"
- **Key:** Do we believe Jesus is guiding the boat?
- Be not afraid to call out to the Lord!



Lord, Save Me!



Isn't this how we feel at times?

I Am with You Always

- **Heb. 13:8:** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- Just as Jesus was in full control throughout the passion narrative (despite what the characters thought!), so He is in full control of His Church.
- As with the disciples, then, so He invites *us* to call upon Him for salvation and inner peace.
- May we always call upon the Lord and remain close to Him that He may strengthen our wavering faith!



I Am with You Always

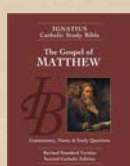


Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. (Rev. 1:18)

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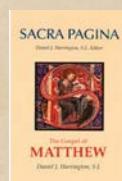


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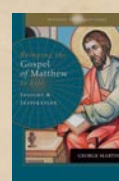


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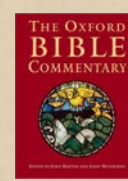
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