



Great and Holy Pascha

The scriptural readings present us with the mystery of Christ's resurrection. During Matins, the resurrection is announced by means of an empty tomb, and when the women are told to go and announce the resurrection, we are told that they, ". . . said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Then, in the Liturgy, we begin with John 1, and we hear about the Word becoming flesh. The empty tomb shows us that Christ is no longer bound by time. He is the Word who through his incarnation, death, and resurrection has transfigured the world. He is the light in the darkness—the one who has trampled down death by means of his own death!

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8, John 1:1-17, The Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom

Bottom Line: Because Christ is risen, we have a new way to live!

Discussion Questions

1. John 1:14 is best translated as "And the Logos became flesh and pitched a tent among us." This tent is a reference to the Tabernacle, the moveable Temple in the wilderness. What does it mean that the "Temple" is now the person of Jesus Christ rather than a building? What implications does this have for ministry today?
2. Why do you think the text says that the women didn't say anything? Why might they have been afraid? Are you afraid to share the news of the resurrection with your friends? How can you overcome your fear?
3. Chrysostom says that all are invited to the feast, even those who come at the "eleventh hour." How is partaking of the feast transformative? How can you make that transformation last all year long?
4. Because Christ is risen, we no longer have to fear death. What does that mean for you? How will you live differently knowing Christ has had the last word?

Moving Forward

The Resurrection of Christ has profound implications for how we live life. One of the Paschal hymns states, "Brethren, let us say even to those who hate us, 'Let us forgive everything for the Resurrection'." How will you allow the Good News of "Christ is risen" to inspire you to live a "resurrected life"? What will that look like?

Changing Your Mind

"And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:16-17)