

Third Sunday of Pascha – The Myrrh-Bearing Women

It is true that Jesus didn't choose any women to be among the twelve disciples, but except for that, he did not treat men and women differently. He addressed everyone with the same love and the same message. He spoke openly to women even though in the Jewish custom a man was not allowed to speak to a woman in public. He healed many women, and was close friends with Mary and Martha and their brother. Several women were followers of Jesus Christ and traveled together with Jesus and the twelve disciples. When He was on the cross dying, the only disciple who was there was John. The other men disciples were afraid and ran away. The women followers did not desert Jesus. They were with Him near the Cross and after His death



they went along to see where Jesus was buried. In the early morning after the Sabbath they bravely came to mourn Jesus and to anoint Him with spices and aromatic oils, a burial custom of the Jews. Along the way they worried about how they would roll away the heavy stone which covered the opening to the tomb of Jesus. When they got there they found the stone had already been moved. They were worried that someone had stolen the body of Jesus. Sitting near the stone was an angel who told them not to worry and that Jesus was not there - Jesus had been raised from the dead! It was a special blessing from God that these women were the first to discover the empty tomb and the first to see the risen Christ. We remember the seven myrrh bearing women on the third Sunday of Pascha (the second Sunday after Easter.)

“The holy women wept with joy as they heard the good news of Christ’s resurrection. They came to anoint the Savior, but instead were anointed themselves with everlasting life.” - Anonymous

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The women who were with Jesus while He was on the Cross watched where He was buried. After their holy day, they went to the tomb to put sweet smelling spices on His body. When they got there they found the huge stone had already been moved! An angel was sitting on it and told them that Jesus was not there. The angel said "He is risen." The women were so happy! They went back to tell the other friends of Jesus the great news! We say "Christ is Risen" because we are happy that Jesus is not dead anymore! Jesus rose from the dead so that we can live with Him forever in heaven. Today is a special day to remember the women who first heard the Good News.

