

A Resurrection Play

Written and Presented at

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Massillon, OH 2001

Since this play was presented in Church, the stage directions refer to parts of the church interior.

Narrator: The resurrection of Jesus, which was foretold in the Old Testament, is the most important part of our belief in Him. Jesus had told his friends, the Apostles that he would suffer, die, and that on the third day after his death he would rise again. We celebrate Pascha/Easter as the day he fulfilled that promise. We will reenact the story of the first Pascha/Easter morning and other appearances of the resurrected Jesus as they are found in the Gospel.

All sing "Lord of the Dance"

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses bought spices to Jesus' tomb to anoint His body.

(As all sing, "Someone's crying, Lord..." the two Mary's enter the solea from the pews on the left, approaching the tomb located on the left. At least one holds jar of myrrh for anointing. Soldiers are sleeping at their places.)

Mary Magdalene: Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?

Mary the mother of James and Joses, i.e. the Theotokos: God will show us the way.

If there are more girls to play the roles, the other Myrrhbearers were:

Salome [daughter of Joseph, guardian of the Theotokos, from his first marriage. She was the wife of Zebedee and the mother of John the Theologian and the Apostle James. *Joseph had four sons: James (the less), Joses, Simon & Jude; & three daughters: Esther, Tamara and Salome the wife of Zebedee.* Thus Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses was the Theotokos their (stepmother).]

Joanna [the wife of Chuza, the administrator and steward in the house of King Herod Antipas.]

Mary the wife of Cleopas [he walked with Jesus to Emmaus.]

Susanna, Mary of Bethany and Martha of Bethany, Lazarus' sisters

("Someone's praying, Lord..." is sung in the background.)

Narrator: And behold, there was a great earthquake. An angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. Its face was like lightning and its clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of it, and became like dead men. The angel spoke to the women.

(Angel appears from behind "stone" or _____ and rolls back the stone, and then addresses the two Mary's.)

Angel: Do not be afraid! I know you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen as He said He would. Come; see the place where the Lord had laid. Go quickly and tell his disciples that He is risen from the dead, and is going before you into Galilee. There you will see him. Behold, I have told you.

("Someone's singing, Lord..." is sung in the background as women embrace.)

Narrator: The women ran quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, to bring His disciples the words of the Angel. As they went to tell His disciples, Jesus met them.

(Jesus emerges from a deacon's door and addresses women. Depending on the structure of your church, Jesus may be able to enter from the side.)

Jesus: Rejoice!

Narrator: they came, held Him by his feet, and worshipped Him.

Jesus: Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee and there they will see me.

(Women exit from center of the solea and return to their pew on the left. Jesus disappears through the same deacon's door through which he appeared.)

Narrator: Of course, not everyone was pleased at this news. Some of the guard went into the city and reported to the chief priest and the elders all the things that had happened.

(Soldiers leave the tomb as elders leave assigned pews and enter from opposite side of the solea. They meet in the center.)

Soldier 1: I have never seen anything like it! The earth shook and someone dressed in white came down from the sky!

Soldier 2: It is true. He rolled the stone away from the tomb. We were so scared we could not move. When we looked inside, the body was gone.

Elder 1: Do not tell anyone what you saw.

Elder 2: Just say, "His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept."

Elder 3: Here, this money should help you remember what to say.

(Elders and soldiers return to assigned pews, remove extra clothing in order to appear as the disciples. All disciples but Thomas gather on the solea.)

Narrator: When the disciples heard the news of Jesus' resurrection, they wondered. Many of them did not believe Jesus was raised from the dead and was alive again. Then Jesus came and spoke to them.

(Jesus appears from the deacon's door.)

Jesus: Peace to you. *(He shows them the prints in his hands, then says,)* As the Father has sent me, I also send you. Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all the things I have commanded you. I am with you always, even to the end of the ages.

(Jesus returns through the deacon's door. Thomas approaches disciples on the solea.)

Narrator: Now Thomas was not with the rest of the disciples when Jesus came, so they told Thomas of His appearance.

Disciple 1: We have seen the Lord.

Disciple 2: Yes, He came and spoke with us.

Thomas: Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.

Narrator: Eight days later, the disciples were gathered together and Thomas this time was with the rest. Jesus appeared to them.

(Jesus appears through the deacon's door and addresses disciples.)

Jesus: Peace to you. Thomas, reach your finger here, look at my hands, reach your hand here, and put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving. Believe!

Thomas: My Lord and my God!

Jesus: Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Narrator: After Jesus had spoken to the disciples for the last time, He was received into heaven, and sat at the right hand of God. And the disciples worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. Then they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through signs. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

(All exit, 2-by-2, down center aisle and then up sides, singing, "We are one in the Spirit." The last verse is performed all together back on the solea. Then all sing Χριστος Ανεστη – Christ is Risen!).

PROPS

Tomb

COSTUMES

Roman Soldiers

Elders

Disciples

Myrrhbearers

Angel

MUSIC

Lord of the Dance

Someone is singing Lord

Χριστος Ανεστη – Christ is Risen!