

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

This Sunday is dedicated to the myrrh-bearing women. Myrrh-bearing Women's Day is a holiday for Christian women. They remained faithful to Christ and were with the Lord when He died on the cross. For such love, it was the myrrh-bearing women who were honored to be the first to know the good news that Christ had risen.

When the Lord was seized, tortured, and crucified, all the disciples were frightened and fled. Those who faithfully and humbly accompanied the Lord during his earthly life gathered near the Cross. Women proved to be more faithful and stronger than most men. The body of the Lord rested in the tomb on the Sabbath, and early Sunday morning the women took the anointing oil and went to the Savior's tomb to anoint His pure body with it. That is why, in history, they forever have the name - myrrh-bearing women.

The Gospel today reads that these women "looked where the body of Jesus was laid." Even then, they had an intention to come to this tomb, again, and anoint Jesus' body with spices, according to the custom of their people.

The first theme for reflection, given to us by the example of the myrrh-bearers, is that they, as the Gospel says, "...seek the living among the dead..." (Luke 24:5)?

When the women came to the burial place of Jesus, wondering who would roll the stone from the entrance to the tomb, they did not find the body of Christ there. Instead, two angels appeared to them and asked, "...Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, ...that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise" (Luke 24:5-7).

Myrrh-bearing women went to look for the living among the dead. Although they saw Jesus being buried in the tomb, they still came to Him. And although the Myrrh-bearers went to the tomb not hoping to meet the living Jesus, they still went to the dead, who turned out to be alive.

Today, myrrh-bearers give us one important point of wisdom: "What is dearest to us never dies." If something in this life is important to us, we

should never, under any circumstances, consider it completely lost. We lose some value only when we begin to consider it lost. In most cases, this value does not disappear from our lives, but we move away from our value.

Once the devil, in the form of a serpent, was the first to seduce the woman Eve. It is no coincidence that Jesus Christ appeared to Mary Magdalene, after the Resurrection. The Messiah came into this world through the holiest representative of womanhood, the Blessed Virgin.

One legend tells of a woman's courage, where God describes her traits: "When I conceived a woman, I wanted her to be perfect. I gave her shoulders, so strong to hold the whole world, and so tender to support the child's head. I gave her a spirit strong enough to endure any pain. I gave her a will so strong that she goes forward when others fall. She takes care of the sick and tired without complaining. I gave her kindness - to love children under any circumstances, even if they hurt her. I made her out of a man's rib to protect his heart. I gave her the wisdom to understand that a good man would never hurt her on purpose, but would sometimes test her strength and determination to stand by him without hesitation. Finally, I gave her tears and gave the right to shed them, where and when she wants. The beauty of a woman in the eyes that open the door to her heart, where love lives.

Remember, if you are a man, be careful not to let a woman weep, for the Lord counts her tears. She is to be protected by you and loved from the heart.

I congratulate all myrrh-bearing women on the holiday, which is rightly called the day of Christian women. A low bow to those women who, despite the hard-working week, hurry to the temple of God on Sundays and holidays. Great praise to the mothers and grandmothers who patiently instilled love for the Church in their children and grandchildren.

I wish you, dear women, health, peace, prosperity, joy, family comfort, and blessings for all your good deeds. We sincerely congratulate all women on this wonderful holiday and wish them spiritual and physical strength on the path of Christian life.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!