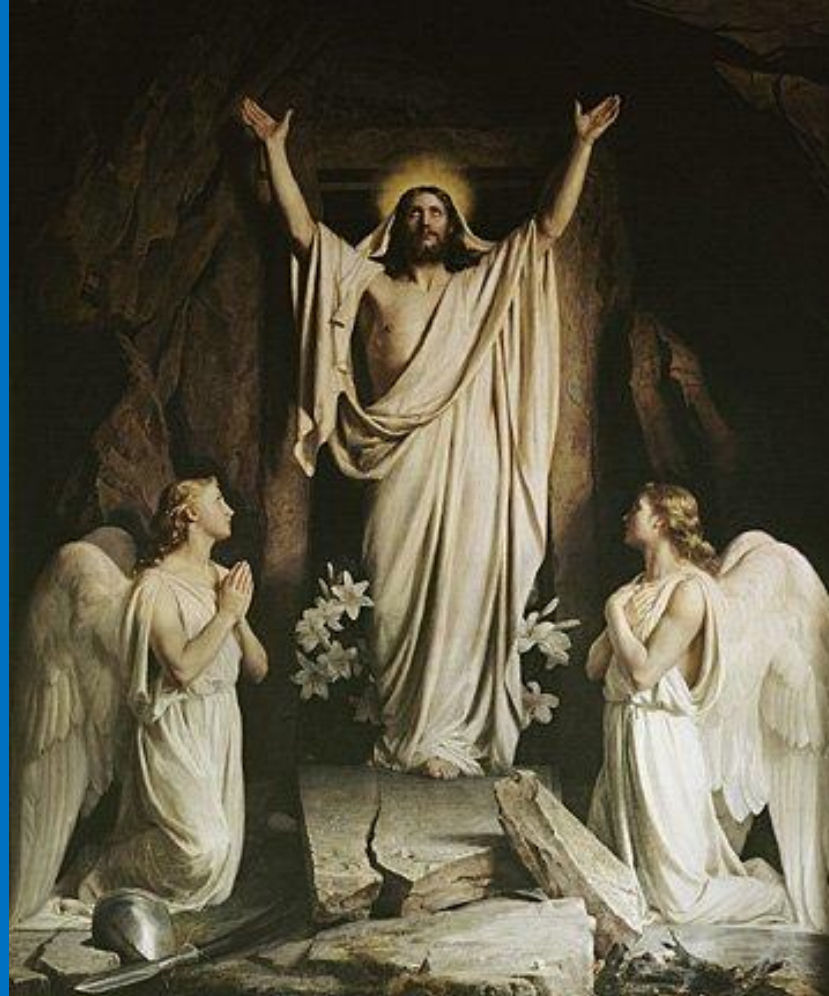


The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

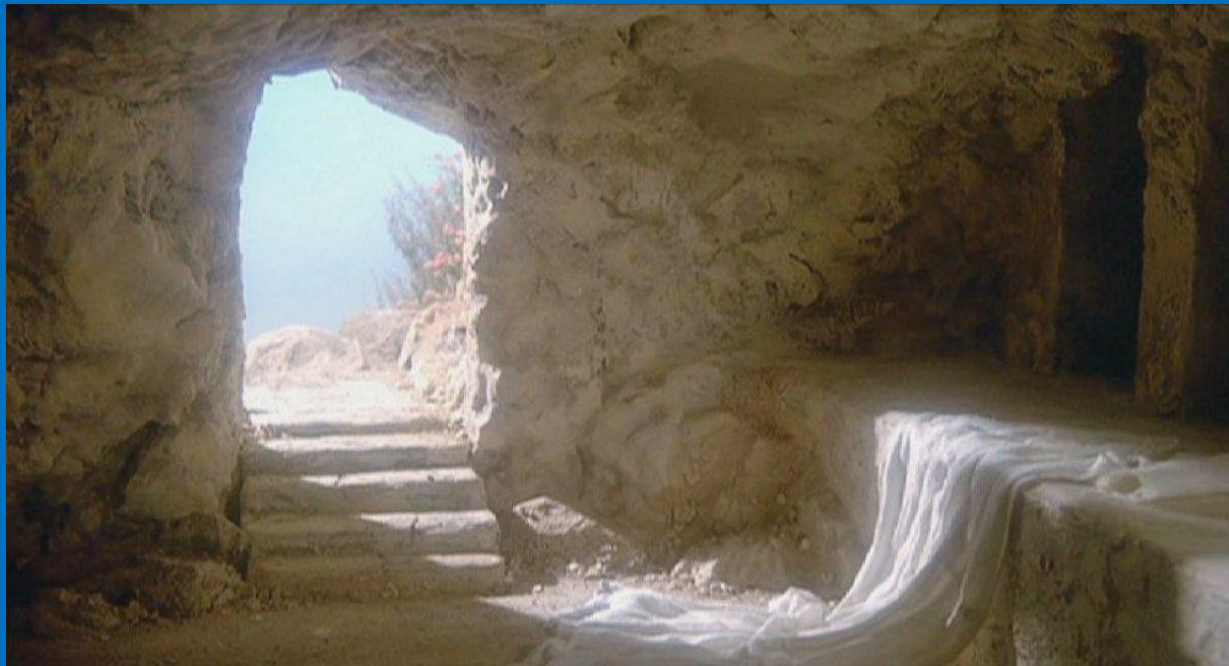
The First Glorious Mystery



Why is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Important?

- † First, it witnesses to the immense power of God Himself. To believe in the resurrection is to believe in God.
- † The Apostle Paul wrote about the importance of the resurrection in his letter to the Corinthians. He wrote, *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith... For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."* (1 Cor. 15:13-14, 16-17)

- † The Resurrection was a historical event.
- † Its historicity can be verified by facts reported by both Jesus' disciples and his enemies:
 - † The empty tomb—no one ever claimed to find a body
 - † Reports of seeing Jesus after his death (Mary Magdalene, Thomas, the Apostles, two disciples on road to Emmaus, 500 people in one place, St. Paul)



The Resurrection Accounts in the Four Gospels

Matthew 28

Women at the Empty Tomb (Mt 28:1-8):

- Mary Magdalene and her companion encounter an angel at the empty tomb, who instructs them to tell others that Jesus has been raised.



Jesus Appears to the Women (Mt 28:9-1):

- Jesus meets the women on their way to tell the disciples and tells them that he will meet them in Galilee.

Mark 16

Women at the Tomb (Mk 16:1-8):

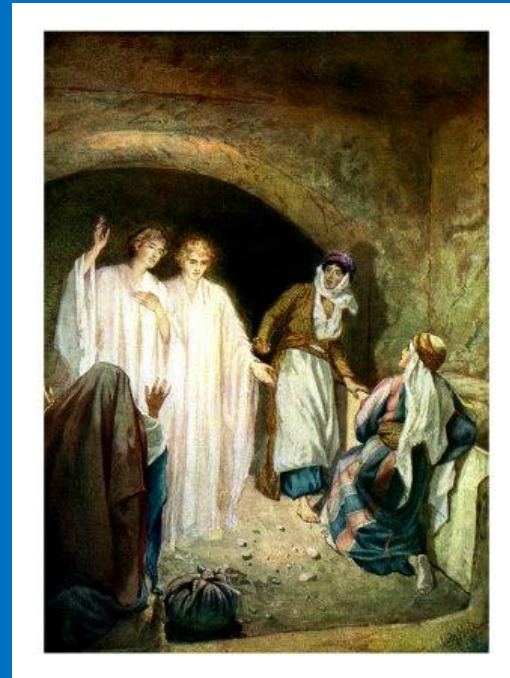
- An angel tells Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome to tell Peter and the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee, but the women remain silent because they are afraid.



† Luke 24

† *Appearance to the Women at the Tomb (Lk 24:1-12):*

† Two angels appear to Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Joanna at the empty tomb and remind them of Jesus' prophecies of his Resurrection.



† *Appearance on the Road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35):*

† Jesus joins two disciples walking on the road and opens the Scriptures to them, though they only recognize him later in the breaking of the bread.

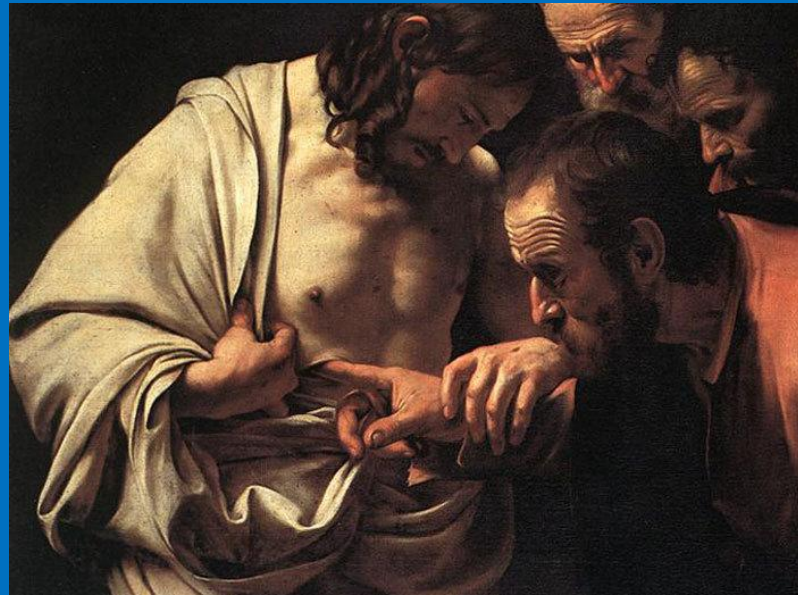
† (This is unique to Luke's Gospel.)



† *Jesus Appears to the Disciples in Jerusalem (Lk 24:36-49):*

† Jesus appears in the midst of the Apostles, invites them to touch his wounds, and helps them to understand how the Scriptures had foretold his suffering and Resurrection.





- † *The Lord Appears to Thomas (Jn 20:24-29):*
- † Jesus appears to Thomas, who had not been present when he appeared to the others, and invites him to put his fingers in his wounds. Thomas responds, “My Lord and my God!”
- † (This story is unique to John.)

† *Appearance by the Sea (Jn 21:1-14):*

† Jesus calls out to the Apostles, who are fishing on the Sea of Tiberias in Galilee, instructs them to cast their nets to the right, and they make a great catch of fish. When they arrive on the shore, Jesus offers them a breakfast of fish and bread.



† *Dialogue Between the Risen Lord and Peter (Jn 21:15-25):*

† Three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves him, and each time Peter responds yes—a reversal of his betrayal in the courtyard. Jesus tells Peter to feed his sheep, establishing him as the pastor who will guide the Church.

† Summary of the Four Gospel Accounts

- † That the Gospel writers made no attempt to mask the differences between the accounts actually argues that there were true, valid experiences behind each of them.
- † There are also several similarities in the four Gospel accounts:
 - † The Resurrection took place on Sunday morning
 - † There were women present
 - † The tomb was empty
 - † There were “messengers” at the tomb
 - † There were several appearances to the disciples

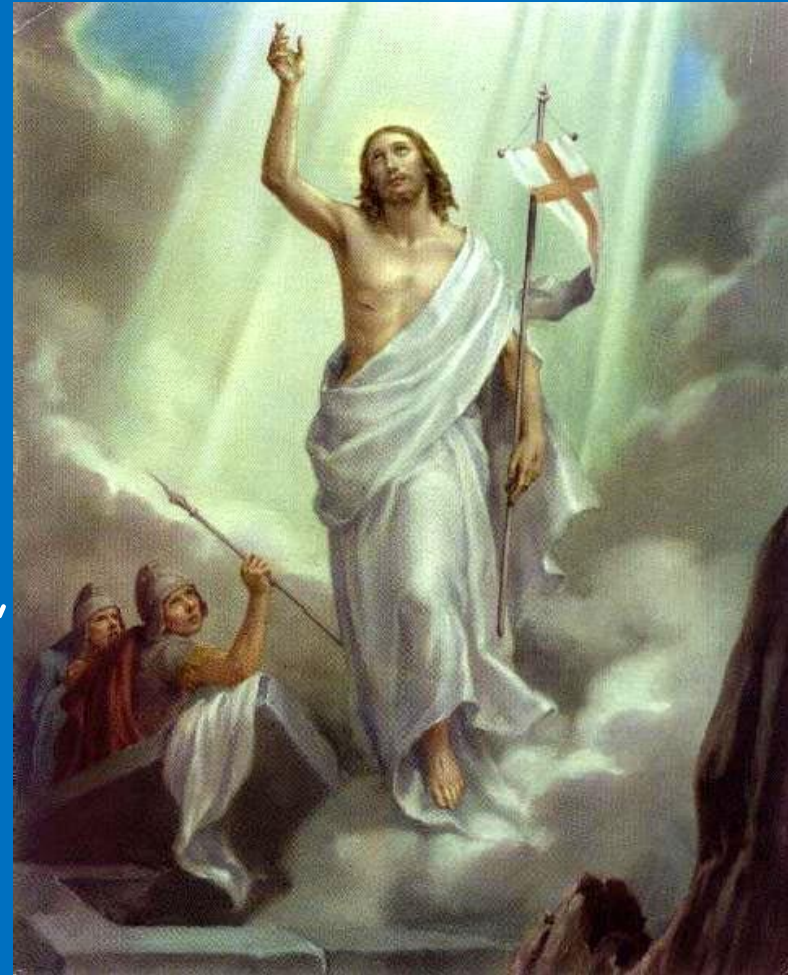
- Jesus sends the apostles out to all the nations and promises to be with them always



† Our Participation in Christ's Resurrection

† The meaning and saving significance of Christ's Resurrection:

- † The Resurrection confirms all Christ's works and teaching.
- † The Resurrection, following Christ's sacrifice on the cross, accomplishes our Salvation.
- † The Resurrection gives us new life, justifies us in God's grace, and adopts us into the divine family.
- † Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christians participate in the Life, suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.



† The Ascension and Glorification of Jesus Christ

- † Jesus' glorification consists of his Resurrection, his **Ascension** into Heaven, and **Pentecost**:
- † The Ascension and Pentecost are continuations of the Resurrection accounts:
 - † Having ascended to the Father, Jesus continually intercedes for us with the Father and prepares a place for us with him in Heaven.
- † On Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, giving them the power and courage to preach the Gospel.

