



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

5 – 11 Apr, 2020

Jesus Christ, the Life and the Resurrection, part 1

**‘Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.
Do you believe this?’ John 11:25-26**

The Holy Week events

- † Every Sunday is dedicated in the Church to the Resurrection of the Lord
- † Around one hundred days in a row are dedicated to Easter, the feast of Christ's Resurrection
 - 48 days before Easter for our spiritual growth through fasting, repentance and prayer in preparation to celebrate Easter
 - 50 days after Easter for celebrating the glorification of the Lord and the work of the Holy Spirit through the apostles and believers

The entire Christian confession is in the words ‘Christ is Risen’

- † *‘And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty’ 1 Cor 15:14*
- † Easter is considered the ‘Feast of Feasts’, where we greet each other: ‘Christ is risen’, and responding: ‘Truly He is risen’
- † Sundays are designated as ‘the Lord's Day’ for the remembrance of the Resurrection of our Lord (*Rev 1:10*)

The Holy Week

- † The Holy week starts around the triumphant entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem and ends at His Resurrection
 - For the Eastern Church, the Holy week starts on the Saturday directly before Sunday
 - For the Western Church, its starts on the evening of the Palm Sunday
- † The Holy week makes us live the series of events in the life of Christ, not in remembrance, but in becoming more of saints and less of sinners

Saturday (before Palm Sunday)

- † The anointing at Bethany by Mary (*Jn 12:1-11*)
 - Mary surrounds Jesus Christ with honor
 - Her attention is on Jesus Christ only and not on any of the visitors
 - She puts her faith into action by giving her all to Christ
 - Mary is a disciple, while Judas, the apostle, is not
- † *'And not as to a mere man did she come unto Him; for then she would not have wiped His feet with her hair, but as to one greater than man can be. Therefore that which is the most honorable member of the whole body, this she laid at Christ's feet, even her own head'* Saint John Chrysostom

Sunday

- † Palm Sunday; Jesus Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem and the people, with palm branches in their hands, declared Him as their King (*Mt 21:1-11, Lk 19, Jn 12*)
- † A custom of distributing branches of palms and olives to the people in the Church prevails to this day, commemorating the victory of Christ against the evil powers. The custom of carrying a candle is our confession that Christ is the Light of the world
- † Christ went to the Temple where the courtyards were full of money changers. The Jewish leaders refused to accept Greek or Roman coins because they had pictures of pagan gods on them. They forced the pilgrims to exchange their pagan money for Jewish coins at exploitative rates. Christ overturns the tables and benches and surprises the Jewish crowds by warning them that they may not actually be on God's side at all (*Mt 21:12-16*)
- † *'Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong'*
1 Cor 6:13
- † That evening Jesus Christ returns and spends the night in Bethany

Monday

- † Jesus Christ returns to Jerusalem
- † He curses the fig tree and it withers (*Mt 21: 18-22*)
- † The tree had leaves, but no fruit. It is symbolic of the people who claim Christian identity, but who in reality yield not fruit of the Christ
- † We are the vessels carrying the Lord (*2 Tim 2:21*) and revealing the fruit of the Holy Spirit (*Gal 5:22-23*)

Tuesday

- † The chief priests and the Pharisees try to lay hand on Christ but were afraid of the multitudes *'because they took Him as a prophet'* (*Mt 21:46*)
- † Jesus Christ taught in parables and warned the people against the Pharisees

- † He predicts the destruction of the Temple and told His disciples about future events, including His own return (*Lk 20:1-21:36*)

Wednesday

- † No record in the Gospels, but much activity as Christ prepares for the Last Supper and as Judas and the Sanhedrin prepare for Jesus Christ's arrest
- † The Church invites us to true repentance, the healing of our immortal spirit, to celebrate Easter. *'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'* *Mt 4:17*
- † In the Maronite Church, Holy Wednesday is called Wednesday of Ayoub (Job). Job, in his great sufferings of losing his children, wealth and health, never cursed God

Thursday

- † In an upper room, Jesus Christ establishes the Eucharist giving the Passover meal a new meaning
- † He washes the feet of His apostles, teaching us the meaning of humility and servanthood
- † Christ and the apostles go to the garden of Gethsemane, except for Judas who goes to inform the Pharisees about the whereabouts of Jesus Christ
- † At the garden, Jesus Christ prays in agony, knowing what lay ahead of Him
- † Jesus Christ is arrested and tried by the Sanhedrin (*Jn 18*)

Friday (*Mt 27:1-66; Mk 15:1-47; Lk 22:66-23:56; Jn 18:28-19:37*)

- † Six trials for Jesus Christ starting from when he was arrested at night until the early hours of the day
- † Jesus Christ is scourged; the city cries, 'Crucify Him or we will tell Rome!'
- † Jesus Christ is turned over to be crucified
- † Jesus Christ is mocked and a crown of thorns is placed on His head
- † Judas hangs himself
- † Jesus Christ bears His cross and is crucified around 9 am
- † Christ's Seven Sayings from the Cross:
 - *'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do'* *Lk 23:34*
 - *'today you will be with Me in Paradise'* *Lk 23:43*
 - *'Woman, behold your son!'* *Jn 19:26*
 - *'Behold your mother'* *Jn 19:26*
 - *'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'* *Mt 27:46*
 - *'I thirst'* *Jn 19:28*
 - *'It is finished'* *Jn 19:30*
- † About 3 pm nature yields at the Crucifixion: the veil is torn, the earth quakes; some graves open and people rise and go into the city
- † Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus Christ's body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in the new tomb (*Jn 19:38-42*)

- Nicodemus' first encounter with Christ was at night out of his fear
- On Holy Friday, Nicodemus and Joseph come in broad daylight to the authority that condemned Christ putting their faith into action boldly

Saturday

- ✝ Jesus Christ at work in Sheol; restored the believers to paradise and destroys Sheol
- ✝ His apostles observe the Sabbath
- ✝ At the request of the Jewish leadership, Pilate grants a guard and sets a seal on the tomb of Jesus Christ

Sunday (Mt 28:1-13; Mk 16:1-20; 24:1-49; Jn 20:1-31)

Christ is risen and makes many appearances. The recorded ones are

- ✝ To Mary Magdalene (*Jn 20:11-18*)
- ✝ To the other women who come to the tomb (intending to complete the burial preparation of His body) (*Mk 16:1-9*)
- ✝ To two disciples on the Road to Emmaus
- ✝ To Peter (nowhere recorded, but alluded to in *Lk 24:33-34; 1 Cor 15:5*)
- ✝ To the apostles without Thomas

Let us live the power of Christ's resurrection as

- ✝ Jesus Christ did with the fig tree rebuking all that is not giving fruits in our lives
- ✝ Mary who gave the most precious to Christ
- ✝ Nicodemus who was bold in his faith and did not go with the flow
- ✝ Jesus Christ's sincere Love (at the Temple) that has no room for compromise

Bibliography

1. "John Chrysostom's Exegesis of the Anointing at Bethany ..." <https://www.academia.edu/>. Accessed April 5, 2020.
https://www.academia.edu/238301/John_Chrysostom_s_Exegesis_of_the_Anointing_at_Bethany_John_12_1-8_
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Catholic Church in prayer