



# Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers

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Adapted from Chapter 3 of *Let Us Live Orthodoxy*, Volume 3

*When you said to the Myrrh-bearers, "Rejoice!", O Christ our God, You ended, by Your Resurrection, the lament of Eve, the first mother. And, You commanded Your Apostles to proclaim, "The Savior has risen from the grave."*

All through life we meet people. Some become our friends, others relatives, and still others are acquaintances. Our manner greatly influences what people remember about us as well as what they think of us. Imagine living during the time of our Lord. What if we were touched by one of His miracles, would that be enough to make us follow Him throughout His time on earth? A group of women known to us as the Myrrh-bearers believed and followed Jesus throughout the time He was living, to the cross, and subsequently were the first to witness His resurrection. Among these women were:

Mary, the Theotokos  
Mary Magdalene  
Mary, the wife of Cleopas  
Joanna  
Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee  
Susanna  
Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus  
Others whose names the Evangelist did not mention

These women made it their duty to look after the needs of our Lord wherever He went. Most of these women were affected by His miracles.

It was these women that were given the privilege to see Him first, after His resurrection. St. John Chrysostom said it best in one of his homilies, "the most condemned sex first enjoys the sight of the blessing; this sex shows its courage the most..."

Along with the Myrrh-bearing women, two men are remembered on the second Sunday after Easter: Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Joseph was a wealthy nobleman and counselor in Jerusalem. Though Joseph kept his discipleship hidden, he gained courage after the Lord's death. Joseph went directly to Pilate and asked for the Lord's body. He loved Jesus so much that he gave his own burial place for the Lord's entombment. Nicodemus was a resident of Jerusalem and a prominent leader of the Jews and Pharisees. He heard the Lord speak and believed in Him. Together with Joseph, Nicodemus came to the body of Jesus at night with one hundred pounds of oils, myrrh, and spices for the burial.

Why should these women be honored? Eve first gave into temptation by the serpent in



the Garden of Eden, but it was a woman who brought humanity back to the road to salvation (the Theotokos). The faith, courage, and compassion of the Myrrh-bearers touched the Savior; it was for this reason He appeared to them first. The Myrrh-bearers were women that had a great deal of pain, suffering, and in some cases sin in their lives; Jesus eliminated this. He vanquished their pain. These women could not say thank you enough for the gift He gave them.

During the three years that Jesus preached and performed miracles, He touched many lives. As we go through our life, we touch others around us by our actions. Consider everyone around you –not just your family, close friends or even acquaintances. By simply being kind, we can give others a feeling of love, as “neighbor,” and even a source of comfort. Isn’t that the least we could do?

## GELATIN CROSS

### MATERIALS

- Fragrance oil (jasmine, any floral, rosemary, sage, etc.)
- 2 or more packages of fruit-colored gelatin, about 3 oz. each
- ½ cup water per color of gelatin
- Bowl for each color of gelatin
- Wax paper, about 12 inches
- Disposable spoons and knives

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Empty one box of gelatin into each bowl.
2. Stir in one teaspoon of water at a time until the gelatin takes on a “snow” consistency and appearance. After the first two spoonfuls, add three drops of your chosen oil(s). This needs to be exact. Too much water will make the gelatin slushy, and the cross will not hold its shape. Too little water will not moisten the entire package of gelatin.
3. When the gelatin has reached the proper consistency, place a portion a sheet of wax paper and start to form a cross.
4. If desired, layer additional colors of gelatin to embellish the base cross.
5. Allow the cross to dry; depending on its size, this could take anywhere from one hour to several.
6. The final product will be a fragrant and colorful cross that may be displayed anywhere and will last.
7. If the dried cross breaks during handling, just moisten the two ends and rejoin them.