

JESUS CHRIST'S RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, mentioned several times during His lifetime that He was going to be tormented and crucified, however he also said that He was going to rise again on the third day. Many people heard Him say those words, however very few understood the meaning of Christ's words.

And so, early Sunday morning, on the third day of His death, a group of pious women took some fragrant oils and incense, and went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. On their way, they were thinking about a way to roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb, as the stone was very heavy.

When they arrived at the tomb, they noticed that Jesus' body was not there and the entrance was open, because an angel sent by God had rolled the stone away, and Jesus had risen. Seeing all this, the women were perplexed and were wondering as to what could have happened to the body of their dear teacher.

Suddenly, at that moment, two men, in luminous clothes, appeared to them and said: **"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying 'the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and rise again on the third day'."**

The women remembered those words and joyfully returned and told the disciples all that they had seen and heard. But the disciples were so desperate and frightened that they did not believe any of it.

During a whole day after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His favorite people: to Mary Magdalene, to His apostle Peter and to two disciples travelling to a village called Emmaus. In the evening of the same day, when Jesus' disciples were gathered in the upper room, Jesus appeared to them and said: **"Peace to you, it is I, do not be afraid."** At first, the disciples were frightened and thought that it was a bodiless spirit. But when they saw the wounds on His body, they believed and were overjoyed. At that moment, they understood all that Jesus had said and regretted having left Him during His trials.



After the resurrection, Jesus stayed with His disciples for a period of forty days, teaching them about the Kingdom of God. At the end of that period, Jesus met with the disciples on the Mount of Olives and gave them His last message saying: **“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I commanded you. And behold, I am with you till the end of the world.”**

And when they were still on the Mount, Jesus ascended to heaven and a cloud covered Him out of their sight.

At that moment, two men, in white clothes, appeared and said: **“Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? Jesus, who rose up to heaven, will come in the same manner as you saw Him rise to heaven.”** Hearing that, the disciples were delighted and they returned to Jerusalem.

The Armenian Apostolic and Holy Church has remained faithful to all of Jesus’ teachings and has observed all that Jesus commanded.

We truly believe that Jesus has risen from the dead, ascended to heaven and sat at the right side of His Father. We also know that Jesus will come into the world a second time, to judge the dead and the living. Thus, we should all pray, believe and do God-pleasing works, so that when Jesus comes, He may judge us according to His mercy and may grant us eternal life.

QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS

- 1) What did Jesus promise to mankind during His lifetime?
- 2) How many days after His death did Jesus rise again?
- 3) What did the angel say to the devout women?
- 4) When did Jesus’ disciples believe that He had risen again?
- 5) What is Jesus’ last commandment?
- 6) What happened on the Mount of Olives?
- 7) Does the Armenian Church believe in Jesus’ second coming?
- 8) How can we prepare for God’s judgment?

LEARN BY HEART

Christ rose from the dead,
He defeated death with His death.
And by His Resurrection, He granted us life.
Glory to Christ our Lord. Amen.