

MATTHEW 28

CHRIST IS RISEN (28:1-8)

St. Peter Chrysologus on Christ rising with the same body:

The Lord rises with the same flesh. He brings back the wounds, takes on again the holes from the nails and bears witness by His very body with the signs of His Resurrection, which were the ravages of His suffering. If so, how could anyone imagine that He might return in some other body?

St. Cyril of Alexandria on Christ as the way to eternal life:

He has become a way of ascent to immortality not only for Himself but also for us. For this reason He made Himself nothing and put on our likeness, that 'by the grace of God,' just as the blessed Paul says, 'He might taste death on behalf of us all' (Hebrews 2:9). And so He has become the death of death.

CHRIST APPEARS TO THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN (28:9-10)

The Kontakion for the Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women:

You did command the myrrh-bearers to rejoice, O Christ! By Your Resurrection, You did stop the lamentation of Eve, O God! You did command Your apostles to preach: The Savior is Risen!

THE DECEIPT OF THE AUTHORITIES (28:11-15)

Blessed Theophylact on the foolishness of the story concocted to hide Christ's Resurrection:

How, you foolish ones, could the disciples have stolen Him when in fear they had secluded themselves and did not even dare to go out at all? How, if they had stolen Him, would they later die for Him, preaching that He had risen, and be hacked to pieces for the lie?

THE GREAT COMMISSION (28:16-20)

Blessed Jerome on the command to teach and baptize:

What a marvelous sequence this is. He commanded the apostles first to teach all nations and then to baptize them in the sacrament of faith and then, after faith and baptism, to teach them to observe all that He had commanded. Lest we think these commandments of little consequence or few in number, He added, "All that I have commanded you," so that those who were to believe and be baptized in the Trinity would observe everything they had been taught.

Find more study guides and other resources online at orthodoxyouth.org/matthew.

Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)

Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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