

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

THEY FOUND AN EMPTY TOMB!

The church's celebration of Christ's Resurrection from the grave continues. This Second Lord's Day after the Feast of Feasts is in commemoration of the **MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN**. What a lesson they provide us of faith, devotion, love and service to the Lord.

These were women who watched under the Cross as Jesus suffered and died. They watched when Joseph and Nicodemus took down the Lord's body from the Cross and carried it for burial. They watched at the grave as their Loved One was laid to rest. Apparently the internment was hurried since the great Feast of the Passover was at hand. How the women wanted to minister to the Lord at this time of need!

It is no wonder that as soon as the Pasover was over, the women hurried to the tomb of Christ, armed with the proper ointment. It was still dark, but they knew the way. They wondered who would roll away the stone from the door of the tomb, but still kept going. Love would find a way.

And when they finally came to the tomb, they see to their surprise that the stone had been rolled back. They discovered that the grave is empty! An Angel of the Lord proclaims the good news: "*You seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is Risen! Behold the place where they laid Him . . .*"

The icon for today depicts the scene in a traditional way. The burial garments lie in place, but the body is gone. The angelic messenger bids them to hurry and tell the disciples of the Lord that He has Risen from the tomb. But the women, trembling and astonished at what they have learned, depart in awe.

