

WEEK 21: MARK 15 & 16 - TRIALS BEFORE JEWS & GENTILES; CRUCIFIXION; BURIAL; AND RESURRECTION

HIGH SCHOOL

GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 15-16

LESSON

Materials Needed: Orthodox Study Bible

Extended Learning Opportunities:

The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark pages 131-144

The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 249-273

The Crucifixion of the King of Glory by Eugenia Constantinou

GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTERS 15-16

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Today, we are going to go over the sequence of events that took place in the final days of Jesus' life, as well as, point out a few details for further explanation and clarification.

Timeline of Events:

1. First Holy Communion
2. Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane
3. Judas betrays Jesus
4. Jesus is arrested
5. Jesus faces the Sanhedrin (Jewish high court; High Priest leads the group)
6. Jesus faces Pilate (Roman leader of the area)
7. Jesus is crucified
8. Jesus is buried
9. Jesus resurrects! (Christ is Risen!)

We talked about 1-4 in previous lessons. Let's take a closer look at 5-9.

The Sanhedrin is the Jewish high court and the High Priest leads this group. Why was this group of Jews so adamant about getting rid of Jesus - to the point of killing Him? We heard all year long about the huge crowds of Jews that followed Jesus everywhere as He taught and healed them. These same crowds had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and cheered for Jesus as He entered the city. Why was there such a difference in how these two groups of Jews perceived Jesus?

Overall, the great majority of the Jews accepted Jesus as the Messiah. It was predominantly those of the upper classes of Jews that did not recognize Him as the Messiah. It's important to understand the dynamics at play between the Roman Empire and the Sanhedrin. The Roman Empire ruled by leaving some soldiers behind and also carefully chosen leaders who would be loyal to Rome. The Roman emperor chose to rule in cooperation with locals as much as possible. By this is meant - the native leaders of the area would receive incentives (money, goods, valuables) if they cooperated and were obedient to the local Roman leader and ultimately to the Roman Empire. If you rebelled against the empire, you would be enslaved or die.

Unfortunately, by this point in time, many of those who served in the Temple were corrupt and more interested in personal gain than God. There was a tremendous amount of money flowing through the Jewish Temple since all Jews paid a tribute to the Temple and came to the Temple three times a year. No expense was spared on lavishly decorating the Temple with gold, silver, and other expensive metals, fabrics, or resources. The Sanhedrin are wealthy Jewish men and they feel threatened by Jesus!

Jesus' trial was not a fair one. The trial was never intended to even consider Jesus' possible innocence. It was only ever about finding a way to prove His guilt and punish Him.

While Rome let the Sanhedrin deal with Jewish troubles without seeking permission from them first, the Sanhedrin was not allowed to put Jews to death without a trial before the local Roman official. This is why they bring Jesus to Pilate. They want Him dead.

Pilate, however, finds Jesus innocent and doesn't want anything to do with sentencing Him to death. He actually tries to avoid the whole situation any way he can, even thinking that if he offered the crowd a choice between releasing the notorious prisoner Barrabas or

Jesus, that they crowd would surely chose Jesus to be released. Then he would be done with this situation. Unfortunately, the chief priests and scribes quickly gather friends from nearby and convince those gathered outside to ask for Barrabas' release instead. Pilate is shocked and now stuck with dealing with the Sanhedrin wanting Jesus dead!

Punishment at this time was harsh and determined based on your social standing. Crucifixion was used for slaves and the lower class criminals. Those of the upper class were usually beheaded or given the opportunity to commit suicide because it was seen as merciful. Crucifixion has been determined to be the most awful way to die. The Sanhedrin wanted Jesus to be displayed with the lowest of the low in order to discredit Him as being the Son of God.

As soon as Jesus is brought to Golgotha, where He will be crucified, He is offered "wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it." This mixed drink was offered to those about to be crucified as a form of pain reliever or sedative - a tiny offering of mercy - but Jesus did not take it. Why do you think that is?

While Jesus is on the Cross, He says in a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" We learned earlier in the year that because books were expensive and rare, the people predominantly memorized things. This is the first line of Psalm 22 and Jesus is either praying it and/or prompting those around Him to recall it. This Psalm parallels Christ's crucifixion and then His vindication over death afterwards. He's telling the people it's ok - He's doing this for their benefit. (Find Psalm 22 in your Bible and read together)

Joseph of Arimathea requests the body of Christ from Pilate and then prepares Jesus' body for burial. Joseph places Jesus' body in an unused tomb that would have been used for someone in his family.

Three women - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to the tomb after the Sabbath had past to anoint Jesus' body. When they arrived at the tomb, an angel told them that Jesus was not there and had risen. The women went quickly and shared the news with the disciples!

Each year after Pascha we proclaim, "Christ is Risen!" What is the response to this proclamation? Why do we do this?

REVIEW:

- Tell me the sequence of main events that happened in Jesus' last days.
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MIDDLE SCHOOL

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First
Holy
Communion

Praying in
Garden of
Gethsemane

Judas Betrays
Jesus

Jesus is
Arrested

Jesus faces the
Sanhedrin

Jesus faces
Pilate

Jesus is Crucified	Jesus is Buried
Jesus Resurrects!	

Make a Timeline:

Cut out the sequence of events and then ask your students to put them in the correct order on their table. (One set per table)

Take one set of the events and tape them, in sequential order, on the white board. Using a dry erase marker, elaborate further under each event.

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3RD - 4TH GRADE

GOAL

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5. Jesus faces the Sanhedrin:

The Sanhedrin was a group of priests and elders of the Jewish Temple. The High Priest was the leader of the group. After Jesus is arrested, he is questioned by the Sanhedrin as they try to find a way to convict Him for a crime.

Why did the Sanhedrin want to get rid of Jesus so badly because most of the Jews loved Jesus? They followed Him as He taught and healed them and cheered happily for Him as He entered into Jerusalem after raising Lazarus from the dead.

During this time, the Roman Empire was ruling over the area. The Sanhedrin was allowed to make decisions regarding Jews without talking to the Roman leaders first, unless they were going to put someone to death. Then they had to bring that person to the local Roman leader for a trial first.

6. Jesus faces Pilate:

Pilate was the local leader for the Roman Empire. After Pilate questioned Jesus, he found him innocent. He didn't understand why the Sanhedrin wanted him crucified so badly.

Pilate thought he had a great idea to get out of this horrible situation - he would give the crowd a choice. They could either have the notorious criminal, Barrabas, released or Jesus. Surely, the people would prefer to release Jesus instead of this criminal. The plan backfired on Pilate though. The Sanhedrin quickly called their friends to gather outside and convinced any Jews nearby that it would be better to release Barrabas instead of Jesus. Pilate was not happy about this.

7. Jesus is crucified:

Crucifixion is the worst way to die. It's slow and incredibly painful. It was reserved for slaves and the lowest-of-the-low of criminals. The Sanhedrin wanted Jesus crucified because it would publicly show the people that He was not the Son of God.

Jesus willingly died on the cross for each and every one of us.

8. Jesus is buried:

After Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and requested to bury Jesus. Joseph wrapped Jesus in burial cloths and prepared His body to be buried in an unused tomb that would have been used for somebody in his family, but was used for Jesus instead.

9. Jesus resurrects!

When the myrrh-bearing women go to anoint Jesus at the tomb on the third day, they find that the tomb is empty and an angel is waiting to talk to them. Jesus had risen from the dead and they were to go tell the disciples!

On Pascha, our priest will loudly exclaim, “Christ is Risen!” and we loudly respond back, “Truly He is Risen!” We are so joyful and thankful to Jesus for conquering death and enabling us to be with Him in heaven after we die. We sing “Christ is Risen” for forty days after Pascha each year.

REVIEW:

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1ST - 2ND GRADE

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2. Jesus goes to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane just before Judas betrays Him.
3. Judas gave Jesus a kiss, which told the soldiers this was the man to arrest.
4. Jesus was crucified on the cross. He willingly died so that we could go to heaven with Him when we die.
5. Joseph of Arimathea wrapped Jesus' body up in special fabric and then buried Jesus in a tomb.
6. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead! We celebrate this feast day on Pascha. It is the most important feast day of the entire year for us! For 40 days after Pascha, we greet people with, "Christ is Risen!" And they respond to us, "Truly He is Risen!" We also sing "Christ is Risen" for 40 days after Pascha.

Practice saying "Christ is Risen!" and having the kids respond with "Truly He is Risen!" You can also practice the responses in other languages as well, if you'd like.

Practice signing "Christ is Risen" as a class.

Mystical Supper



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Christ Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane



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Judas Betrays Jesus



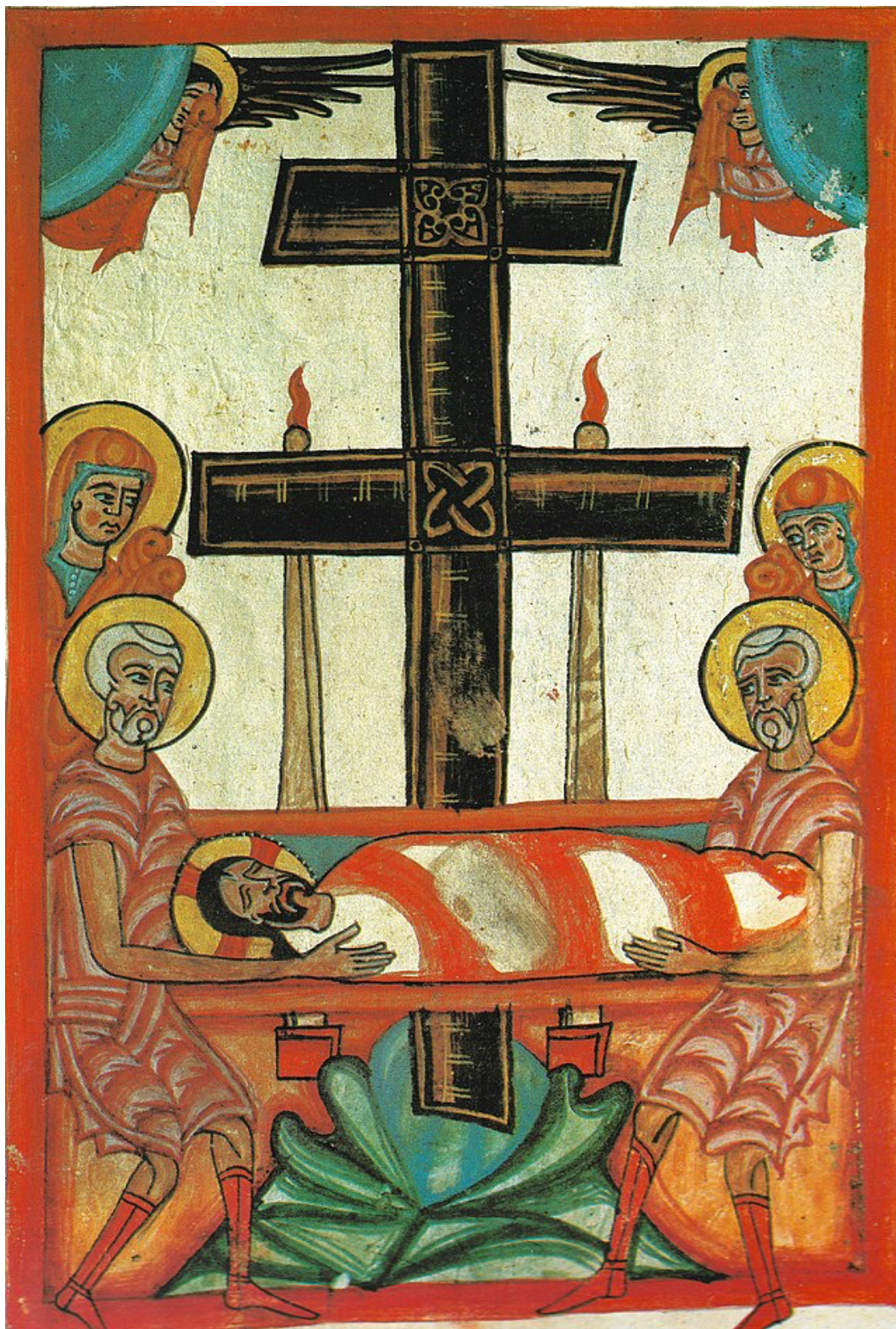
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pelegrino/4670584680>

Crucifixion of Jesus



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Burial of Jesus



[Wikimedia Commons](#)

Resurrection of Christ



[Wikimedia Commons](#)

Paschal Greetings from Around the World

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/paschal-greetings>

Language	Greeting	Response
Aleut:	Khristus anahgrecum!	Alhecum anahgrecum!
Aleut:	Khris-tusax agla-gikux!	Agangu-lakan agla-gikux!
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!
Alutuq:	Khris-tusaq ung-uixtuq!	Pijii-nuq ung-uixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnial eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Athabaskan:	Xristosi banuytashtch'ey!	Gheli banuytashtch'ey!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskrese!	Vo istina voskrese!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros!	Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Qeshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pchristos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Vstal z mrtvých Kristus!	Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden!	Ja, sandelig opstanden!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!
Esperanto:	Kristo levigis!	Vere levigis!

Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud!	Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista!	Totisesti nousi!
French:	Le Christ est réssuscité!	En verite il est réssuscité!
Gaelic:	Taw creest ereen!	Taw shay ereen guhdyne!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!
Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam!	Be emet quam!
Hungarian:	Krisztus feltamadt!	Valoban feltamadt!
Ibo (Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo!	Ezia o' biliwo!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Javanese:	Kristus sampun wungu!	Tuhu sampun wungu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Latvian:	Kristus ir augsham sales!	Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Lugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Amajim ajukkide!
Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden!	Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou!	Em verdade ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!

Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Christos vstal z mŕtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden!	Han är sannerligen uppstånden!
Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom!	Ha koo qam!
Tlingit:	Xristos Kuxwoo-digoot!	Xegaa-kux Kuxwoo-digoot!
Turkish:	Hristos diril - di!	Hakikaten diril - di!
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!
Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist!	Atgyfododd yn wir!
Yupik:	Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq!	Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
Zulu:	UKristu uvukile!	Ngempela uvukile!

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PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

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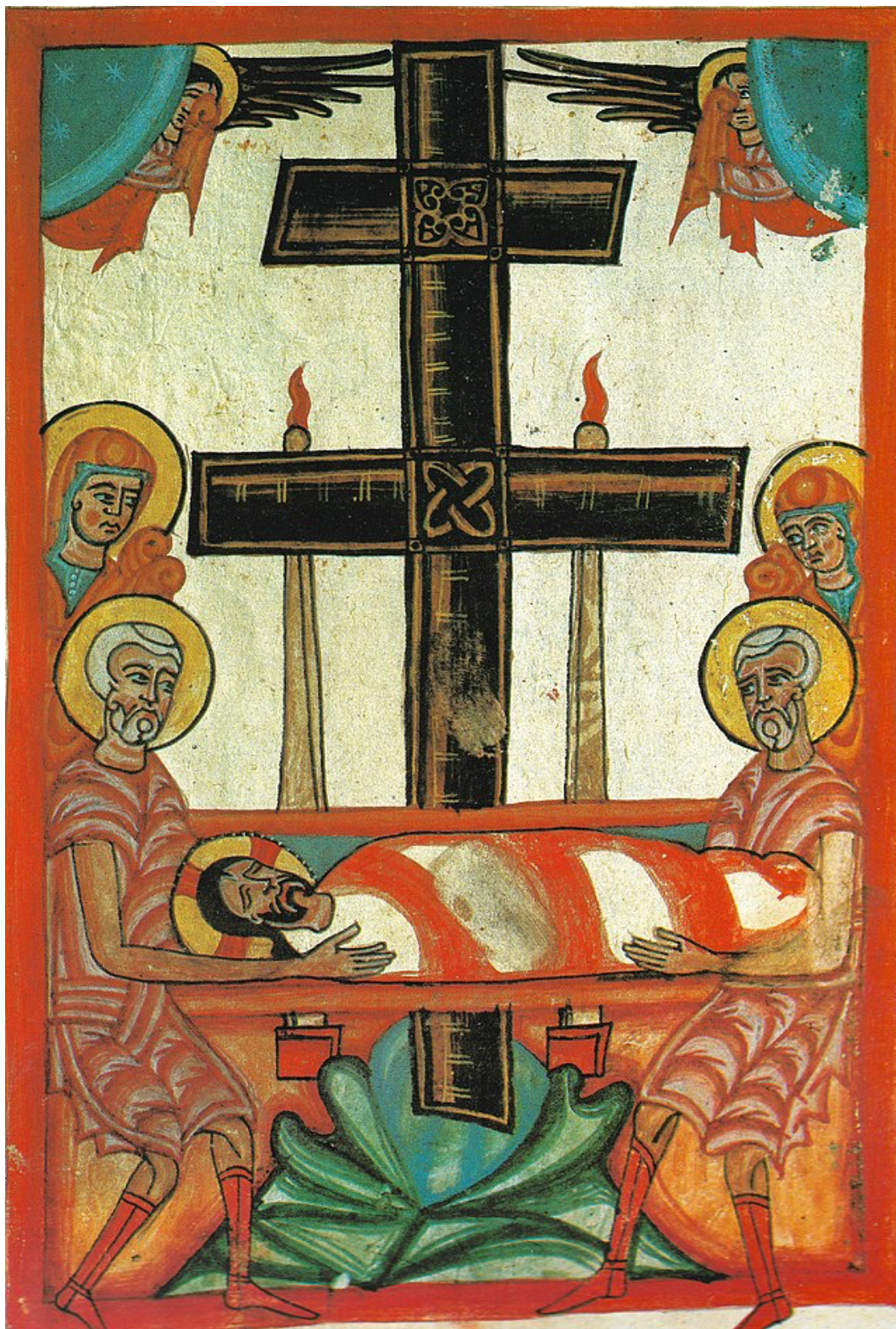
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Crucifixion of Jesus



[Wikimedia Commons](#)

Burial of Jesus



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Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnial eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Athabaskan:	Xristosi banuytashtch'ey!	Gheli banuytashtch'ey!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskrese!	Vo istina voskrese!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros!	Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Qeshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pchristos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Vstal z mrtvých Kristus!	Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden!	Ja, sandelig opstanden!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!
Esperanto:	Kristo levigis!	Vere levigis!

Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud!	Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista!	Totisesti nousi!
French:	Le Christ est réssuscité!	En verite il est réssuscité!
Gaelic:	Taw creest ereen!	Taw shay ereen guhdyne!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!
Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam!	Be emet quam!
Hungarian:	Krisztus feltamadt!	Valoban feltamadt!
Ibo (Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo!	Ezia o' biliwo!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Javanese:	Kristus sampun wungu!	Tuhu sampun wungu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Latvian:	Kristus ir augsham sales!	Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Lugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Amajim ajukkide!
Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden!	Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou!	Em verdade ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!

Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Christos vstal z mŕtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden!	Han är sannerligen uppstånden!
Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom!	Ha koo qam!
Tlingit:	Xristos Kuxwoo-digoot!	Xegaa-kux Kuxwoo-digoot!
Turkish:	Hristos diril - di!	Hakikaten diril - di!
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!
Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist!	Atgyfododd yn wir!
Yupik:	Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq!	Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
Zulu:	UKristu uvukile!	Ngempela uvukile!