

WEEK 27: JESUS' RESURRECTION

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

Learn about the icons: Myrrh-bearing women at the Tomb; Myrrh-bearing women worship the risen Lord; the Resurrection (Descent into Hades); Adam and Eve

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 385-391

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 253-259

The Icon of the Resurrection <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-icon-of-the-resurrection>

Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women - Trisagion Films <https://youtu.be/dp02v7pjUds>

Icon of the Resurrection of Christ - Trisagion Films <https://youtu.be/9d6Bn6Kqzgg>

HE IS RISEN!

It is important for us to teach our children how to read icons, just as we teach them how to read the Bible. Our children will see icons within their own parish, when they move or visit a new parish, visiting a monastery, when they travel to other countries and go to a church, and when they are on the Internet. We want our children to be able to read the story of the icon in front of them.

Read Matthew 28:1-8 while the students are looking at the icon of Christ's empty tomb: We see Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (Theotokos) at the empty tomb of Christ (right). There are two angels depicted in this icon as shared by both Luke (24:1-12) and John's (20:1-10) gospels. We also see the guards at the bottom right of the icon - "And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men." (Matthew 28:4)

Then read Matthew 28:9-10 while the students are looking at the icon of the myrrh-bearing women worshipping Christ or watch and discuss the video about the Myrrh-bearing women - <https://youtu.be/dp02v7pjUds>.

Then, either show the video about the icon of the Resurrection and discuss - <https://youtu.be/9d6Bn6Kqzgg> - or discuss what is happening in the icon as a class.

In the center of this icon of the Resurrection, we see Christ dressed in white - He is the light of the world. On either side of Him, we see Adam and Eve (Genesis 2 & 3), symbols of all of humanity who were created in the image and likeness of God, but distorted that image through sin. Christ is pulling Adam and Eve up by the wrists. Below Christ in the icon, the gates of Hades have been broken by Him. On the left side of the icon, we see several people - three of whom are Kings David and Solomon, as well as St. John the Baptist and Forerunner. On the right side of the icon, the person holding the shepherd's staff is Abel, the first person to die. You will often see all of these people in the icon of the Resurrection (or Descent into Hades). Further details about this icon can be found on the G.O.A. website: <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-icon-of-the-resurrection>

OPTIONAL REVIEW ACTIVITY:

Mix up the icons pertaining to Christ's betrayal, death and resurrection from the last three classes and ask the students to place them in correct order, as they happened in the Gospel of Matthew.

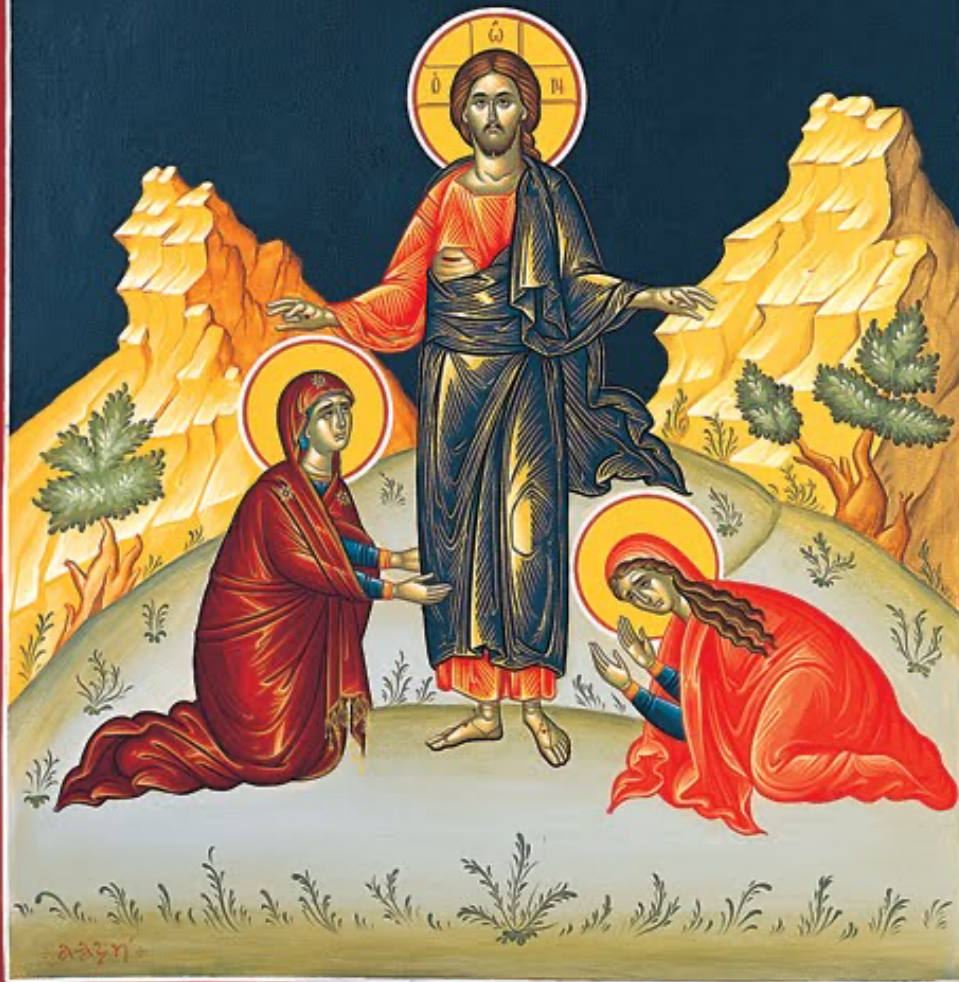
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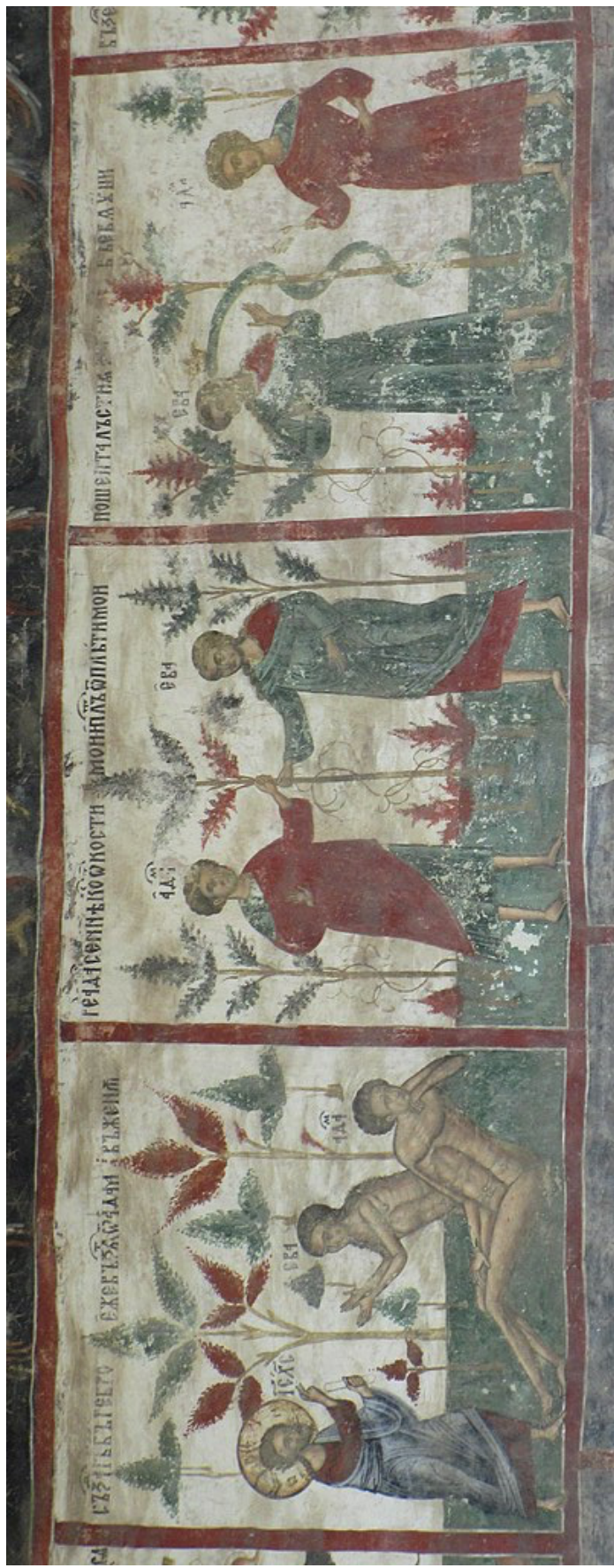
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БІЗЕ

БІВЛАХИ

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СЪЗДАТЕЛЪ СЕГО СХЕТЕ СЪ СЪ ДАМЪ БЪЖИИ



