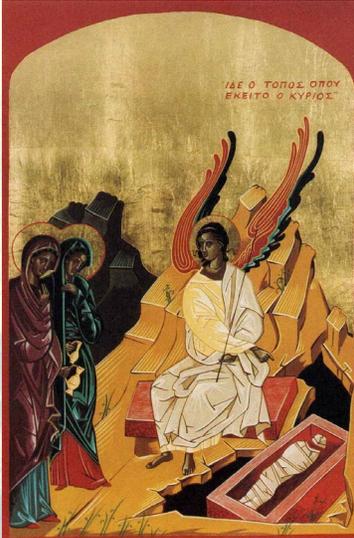


"ΙΔΕ Ο ΤΟΠΟΣ ΟΠΟΥ  
ΕΚΕΙΤΟ Ο ΚΥΡΙΟΣ"

## CREATE: THE CLEARING

Lent, 2024 with Icons Through Western Eyes with Russell Hart

### Easter - The Myrrh-Bearing Women



The icon of the myrrh-bearing women conveys an austere, calm solemnity because the resurrection is beyond our comprehension and inaccessible to our vision. Its every detail contributes to this solemnity: the dismay of the women and the state of the graveclothes tells us that the day of resurrection is the beginning of days outside of time and an indication of the future life — the Kingdom of the Holy Spirit, where God is all and in all.

Why does this majestic figure give audience to these women and not to the disciples? In the world of the New Testament, women are regarded as weak and of no account, like the shepherds Luke tells us about who had heard the angels sing. While the disciples had been concerned about the “best seats” and privileges, these women had been content to love Jesus, which is why they are able to receive the angel’s message. The disciples were not yet ready to receive it.

This is an event that occurred in time, and yet it takes place beyond time. In fact, this event abolishes time altogether. It is an event of such enormity that it cannot be easily rejected or denied, and yet its acceptance demands a tremendous suspension of disbelief. But, as Paul tells the Corinthian church, *“If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are indeed the most miserable of people.”* [1 Cor. 15:19]