

Last week it was Thomas Sunday when it became clear that we need a different way of thinking and a different way of feeling to approach Christ. This week it will become even more clear. There is great confusion among the disciples; their leader who would become king of the jews was murdered by those same jews. There is absolutely nothing left of him being their messiah. He was murdered and the Jews are now hunting his allies. They are upstairs in a house with the door locked for fear that they too will be caught. But then there are the women who also walked with him and they know not only the tradition that the body of a dead person has to be embalmed, that tradition is in their soul, in their very nature that they have to this and want to do this. Out of love for Christ, they set out to embalm his body. They may have also known the fear of getting caught, but they were not concerned with that. In their minds there was mainly the urge to embalm the body. This, of course, should have been done before his burial, but he was hastily placed in a grave, there was no time left to embalm him. And on the way they talk about it ; how do we get that great stone that closes the cave of the tomb rolled away. An impossible task, yet they set out because they love the Lord and yet want to embalm him. The amazing thing here is that they don't ignore the fact that there's a huge stone in front of the grave but go ahead anyway. The Tradition , with a capital T , which is the Holy Spirit , is stronger in them than the fear . They trust Tradition, it's in their genes, it's part of their whole being, their whole nature tells them this is what they should do and so they set off. And then upon arrival at the grave it turns out that the stone has been rolled away ! By an angel ? Because of an earthquake? They don't care and they go in. And then they are the first to learn that Christ rose from the dead. And the others, who had locked themselves in that upstairs room out of fear, don't believe them. This here is an important point ; those who listened to their fear could not believe the resurrection until they could see it with their own physical eyes. Here it becomes clear what that different way of thinking and feeling is.

We are used to putting ourselves in the center. We must consider what is good and what is not good. We must have seen it for ourselves. We have to think logically about how we solve things. And thus, we put ourselves at the center of our lives. We humans have to work things out. Instead of God and the Tradition he gave us. And when we put ourselves at the center of our lives, our hearts harden. The myrrhbearers had no hardened heart. They act only out of love for the Lord. Of course they had a huge advantage over us, they had grown up with the Jewish tradition, it had been taught to them as children. Especially the Mother of God, but with us that is usually not the case. Most of us grew up with the idea that we should get the most out of this life, we will have to fight to achieve something and above all we should also have fun. Then there is only a little spot left for Christ. Then there is certainly no room for self-sacrifice. And then we certainly won't embalm a body if we risk our safety. We can do without

it, we think, but fear is the real counselor here. We will have to rise above it, above our nature, and then that fear fades into the background. The more we know that our soul is many times more important than our body, the less fear we will have of losing that body.

The myron-bearers are an example to us in this. And also Saint Joseph of Arimatea and Saint Nicodemos, both men with important positions in Jewish society, but they jeopardized all that by taking Jesus from the Cross, which many people saw of course. And all because their own lives were far less important to them than Christ and the Sacred Tradition.