

# Where's Your Chair?

Easter Monday



'Noble are you on this day of your birth; on the holy mountain,  
from the womb of the dawn the dew of your new birth is upon you.  
Psalm 110:3

## **Praising:**

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Hearts to heaven and voices  
raise;  
sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
sing to God a hymn of praise;  
he who on the cross a victim  
for the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,  
now is risen from the dead.

## **Reading:**

Matthew 28:8-15  
Bribing the guard

The story that Jesus' body has been stolen by the disciples counts as the first deliberate attempt to explain away the empty tomb. The seeds of most resurrection-rejecting conspiracy theories may be found in the Gospels, although each new generation seems to think they

are the first to come up with them. But it's the motivation of the theorists that's telling here: why do they feel the need to debunk the story? Obviously, the soldiers' and priests' alternative narrative is intended to undermine rumours of Jesus' resurrection. Yet first and foremost, it is an attempted cover-up by an extremely nervous group of people desperate to get themselves out of trouble. Struggling to believe what in normal circumstances appears unbelievable, is one thing. Inventing alternative explanations in order to hide the truth is quite another.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We pray for those who recoil at the very idea of the resurrection

- those for whom a dead Jesus is far less demanding than a living Christ
- those perhaps unsettled and intimidated by the spiritual concept of eternity
- those who seem to choose cynicism and dismissal over humility and faith

Father: when I meet those for whom belief in the empty tomb seems too good to be true, give me patience and gentleness to see the real reason behind their bravado. Amen

## **Doing:**

Monday, 28 March 2016