

## **Our Mission:**

*To share Christ with the world  
and grow disciples for Jesus*



## Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

### **Background:**

If you are curious, each of the Gospels tells the story just a tad differently. Yet what is critical to all is that the tomb was empty, and the message is that Jesus has been raised to life. The Gospel writer appears to indicate what makes it possible for the women to believe is the memory of what Jesus had said and done in the past. Jesus' teachings as well as his actions create a framework so we might believe that the dead would rise and that a life focused upon God would conquer all the forces of this world including sin and death.

### **Theology Connection:**

This is the central belief of the Christian faith. We can argue over the nativity or any of a number of biblical incidents, but according to Paul, if Jesus was not truly raised from the dead then we are a bunch of fools as well as liars. Yet, the reality of the empty tomb, indicates that faith can never be fully proven but is in the end an act of obedience and trust in God's goodness.

### **Application:**

We often speak of the Holy Spirit as the third person of the trinity. We cannot see it yet somehow; we are able to experience its effect upon our lives. The resurrected Christ is no longer trapped in time or hidden in heaven but becomes the fully alive God who is at work in us and restoring the world through us. Along with the first disciples, as they received the Holy Spirit, we become the incarnation of the Body of Christ for the sake of our broken world. Alleluia!

### **The Text: Luke 24: 1-12**

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

<sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

<sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

<sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' "

<sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

<sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

<sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

<sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

## ADULT

In our celebration of Easter, might we do well to read through the passion prior to the resurrection. Even reading the previous two chapters gives us a better appreciation that life is costly. Can there be a resurrection without first a crucifixion? Might we see this pandemic through the lens of Christ's passion and resurrection? Might this account give us a means by which to come to grips with God's work in our lives today?

## YOUTH

Happy Easter!!!!

Please read Luke 24:1-12

Jesus died on the cross and rose three days later. Jesus is alive! The disciples thought that the women's story seemed like nonsense, so Peter went to the tomb. Why do you think Peter went to the tomb?

Maybe Peter's experience of Jesus and his memory of Jesus' words gave him reason to hope that the women's story was not nonsense. The men at the tomb told the women to remember what Jesus said to them. Jesus' words would be the lens that would make sense of the women's story. Over time, these words helped the apostles to understand that they were looking for Jesus, the living one, in the wrong place. He was not dead; he is alive! Their experience of Jesus became the key to their understanding of the Resurrection. God raised Jesus from the dead. We pray during the Easter Season that, as we reflect on our experience of Jesus, we will grow in faith and understanding of Jesus' death and Resurrection.

Let us pray:

Dear God, as we pray during the Easter Season help us reflect on our experience of Jesus. Please help us grow in faith and understanding of Jesus' death and Resurrection. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## CHILDREN'S

People in Bible times often reserved tombs where they could be buried. Someone wanted to offer his tomb for the body of Jesus. Jesus was wrapped in special linens and a huge rock was placed in front of the tomb. It was Friday when Jesus was killed, and the next day was the Jewish Sabbath. Sabbath means day of rest. There were some women who loved Jesus very much. They wanted to anoint His body with special oils. They went on Sunday to do so and found an interesting and intriguing surprise! When the women arrived at the tomb, they found it empty! They saw two men standing by them in bright white clothing, they were angels. The women bowed their faces to the ground, and the angels told them that Jesus had risen from the dead! The women were so excited that they ran to tell the other, but they didn't believe the story. Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb! He looked in, but he only saw the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in.

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. What is your favorite part of the story?
3. What do you think you would have thought and felt if you had been one of the women to discover the empty tomb?

Remember:

Jesus died to take away our sins, His resurrection completed what God had intended from the very beginning!

Pray:

Dear God, Thank You for saving us, and thank You for Your love. Help us to share the hope of Easter with others. Thank You for Your son Jesus. In His name we pray, Amen.