

## Nurturing Faith...

Every Day in Every Way

April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18



**The Case of the Empty Tomb.** Object: A mystery novel which you can find at the library.

Do you like mystery stories? When I was a kid, I loved to read mystery books. Today we are going to hear the most exciting mystery story ever told. I call it "The Case of the Empty Tomb."

The story begins very early in the morning on the first day of the week. Jesus had just been crucified and buried. Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers, went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. When she got there, she saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Peter and John and said to them, "They have taken the Lord's body from the tomb and I don't know where they have put him."

Peter and John raced to the tomb. John got there first. He looked in the tomb and saw the linen wrappings lying there. Then Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linens that John had seen lying there. As he investigated further, he saw the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was also folded and lying apart from the other wrappings. After Peter looked around for a few minutes, John joined him inside. When they were sure that the tomb was empty, they left and went home.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she looked inside the tomb and saw two angels sitting there. One of them was sitting at the head and the other at the foot where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Why are you crying?" the angels asked. "Because they have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have put him," she answered.

Then Mary turned and was about to leave when she saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. Mary, thinking that he was a gardener said, "Sir, if you have taken my master away, tell me where he is so that I can go to him."

"Mary!" Jesus said.

When Jesus spoke her name, Mary knew who he was. She turned to him and cried out, "Teacher!"

"Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I have not yet ascended to my Father. Go and tell my brothers that you have seen me and that I am going to return to my Father and your Father, my God and your God."

Mary found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord." Then she gave them the message that Jesus had told her to tell them.

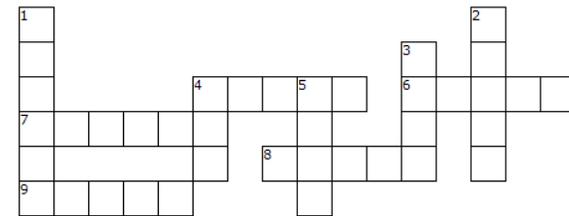
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia. (1 Cor. 5:7, 8)

And that solves "The Case of the Empty Tomb." The tomb is empty because Jesus is not dead, he is alive! He is risen just as he said!

Heavenly Father, the empty tomb is no mystery to us. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen.

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## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

4. A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers
6. Not dead
7. The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
8. To have nothing inside
9. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb

### DOWN

1. Messengers from heaven
2. The color of snow; the opposite of black
3. The woman who found the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb
4. To produce tears; to weep
5. A grave or a room where someone is buried

EMPTY	ANGELS	EASTER	CLOTH	WHITE
STONE	ALIVE	TOMB	CRY	MARY

**TOMB PAINTING:** Give the child a picture of a tomb to color. Have them draw grass, flowers, birds and clouds around the tomb. Write HE LIVES above the tomb art.

**CROSS BOOK MARKERS:** Give the child supplies to draw and cut out a cross from card stock. Decorate it with stickers and colored markers to make a book marker. Write JESUS LIVES on the cross. Add a ribbon put through a hole at the top of the cross.



# JESUS IS ALIVE!

