



*Nurturing Faith . . .  
Every Day in Every Way*

April 4, 2021

**Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43          Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11    Mark 16:1-8

Hello Friends! Happy EASTER and Alleluia! Jesus is risen, He is risen indeed! I would like to play a game with you this morning. I'm going to (try!) to make some animal noises and I want you to tell me what animal I am. Ready?

MOOOOO! BAAAAAA! Quack Quack!...etc... Y'all are really good guessers! So tell me, since I don't actually look like any of those animals, how did you know what animal I was trying to sound like? You recognized those sounds because they are familiar to you.

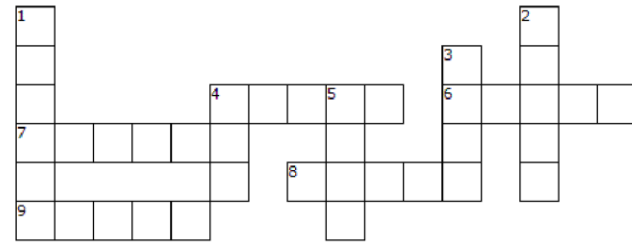
In our Gospel lesson from John, we hear about Mary's first meeting with Jesus after his resurrection. Jesus looks different than he did before and Mary doesn't recognize him until Jesus calls Mary by her name. She recognized the way he spoke, she knew his voice.

Mary teaches us a very good lesson. We have never had the opportunity to meet Jesus in person, but we can still be familiar with him. The more we read about and talk about Jesus, the more familiar he becomes to us. And, the more familiar Jesus is to us, the better we will be at recognizing and understanding resurrection and Resurrected Jesus – just like Mary was.

Loving God, thank you for all of the stories about Jesus that help us to recognize who the resurrected Jesus is. Amen and Alleluia!

**Memory verse for April:** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

*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

**Activity:** Today is Easter! As a family, go on a walk and see if you can recognize signs of new life... budding trees, flowers beginning to bloom, baby animals, etc.

**Discussion Question:** Read the Gospel of John again and put yourself in Mary's shoes. How would you have reacted if you were here?

**Table prayer for April:** Brighter days are upon us, sunshine fills our days. God, you gladden our hearts by the light of your Son and bless us in so many ways. Amen.

