

Easter Sunday

Gospel – Adapted from John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first. He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but he did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head. It was not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. They did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.



Reflection

Happy Easter! Today we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, and today's Gospel tells us a little about what happened that first Easter Sunday. We can hear the mixture of confusion and excitement among Jesus's followers that day. Today's Gospel focuses on three of those followers: Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John. John, of course, is the writer of today's Gospel. He refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” That is how he defines himself; that is how he sees his identity.

Let's focus on John. After Mary comes to Peter and John with the news that the Body of Jesus is missing, they do the most normal thing we can imagine; they run to the tomb to see for themselves. John, being younger, arrives first, but he does not go in until Peter arrives. Peter, after all, is the leader of the Apostles.



What do they see? The burial cloths are there, all wrapped up, but no Body. It seems that Peter is not quite sure what to make of it all, but John sees and believes. All of John's wildest hopes have come true. Jesus had told His disciples that He would rise from the dead, but they didn't really understand or believe. John was the only Apostle who had actually been there to see Jesus die. Now his faithfulness is rewarded. He wasn't the first to actually see the risen Jesus, but he was the first to believe. He was the first to fully experience the joy, the excitement, the peace of Easter.

What about us? Today is Easter. Do we have joy, excitement, hope, peace? Jesus is risen! Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad!



Discussion Questions

What would you have thought, if you had been at the empty tomb?

How do you feel today, knowing that Jesus has risen from the dead, and someday you will, too?

Vocabulary

- **Easter** – The day we celebrate Jesus's Resurrection
- **Hope** – The virtue that allows us to trust God to keep His promises. Jesus defeated death, and He promised that if we follow Him, we will also live forever.
- **Joy** – Lasting happiness
- **Resurrection** – Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, defeating death forever.

Fill in the blanks

- 1 Easter brings us great _____ because Jesus is alive!
- 2 We have _____ that God will also raise us from the dead, to live with Him forever.

3 The _____ is Jesus's greatest miracle.

4 Today is _____ Sunday – Alleluia!

Quiz

1 Who told Peter and the other disciple that Jesus was not in the tomb?

- A John the Baptist
- B Mary Magdalene
- C Andrew
- D The Pharisees

2 What did Peter and the other disciple do when they learned that Jesus was not in the tomb?

- A Ran to the tomb
- B Went fishing
- C Cried
- D Hid from the Romans

3 What did the other disciple do when he saw the empty tomb?

- A Shouted
- B Cried
- C Fainted
- D Believed

Easter Sunday

O F U P C U W E F B H Q A K N
A L L E L U I A A O Q X L O Y
Y O J D T T A K P S S Z I C Y
D O B H U Z W E V K T T V Z Z
R Q E X N O G H S E C E E C C
R E G A Q E X H I E W S R M I
S D T G S W L Q R O V P O V W
Z B T I I G W R I S D D R I O
K U K B U C U L P Q I O Z O N
H W T X Q S T O D A O K Y Y F
S T O J E J U U U D K H Q U J
E A U R W L D X K E B U B Q M
N D R B C S L O K U M U Z P T
C U Z F B J I K E A J N H N R
O S W Y T A L B I X E U K H K

ALIVE

ALLELUIA

EASTER

HOPE

JOY

RESURRECTION

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1 Joy
- 2 Hope
- 3 Resurrection
- 4 Easter

Quiz

- 1 B – Mary Magdalene
- 2 A – Ran to the tomb
- 3 D – Believed



