

St. John's Church School
Easter Day

Easter Day

Special Event Celebration

What happened on Good Friday to make the disciples of Jesus sad?

Good Friday was a day of heart-break for the disciples and friends of Jesus. They had believed that he was the King chosen by God to lead Israel to freedom, and establish God's kingdom on earth. Instead, Israel's own priests had handed him over to Israel's enemy, the power of Rome, to be condemned, tortured, and killed on a cross.

What happened after Jesus died?

On Friday afternoon the body of Jesus was buried in a tomb in a cave carved out of the rocky hillside in a nearby garden, and a huge disk-shaped **stone was rolled in front of the door** of the cave. This had to be done quickly, before dark, when the Sabbath began – the seventh day of the week when work (including burial) was forbidden.

What happened after the Sabbath was over?

As early as possible on the first day of the week, Sunday morning – at dawn – some women disciples of Jesus hurried to the tomb. These were **the women who had followed him from Galilee** (including **Mary Magdalene**) and watched as he died and saw where he was buried, so they knew where to go. They wanted to finish preparing his body (anointing) and they wanted to be near the body of the Friend they had loved.

What did they find when they got to the tomb?

When they arrived at the tomb, they were astonished, because **the stone was rolled away**. And when they looked into the tomb, they were even more surprised, because **it was empty: Jesus' body was not there**. They supposed this could mean one thing: **Someone had taken the body away**. (Perhaps the authorities who had so cruelly put Jesus to death did not want him to have honourable burial.)

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What did the women do?

They entered into the tomb, and there an angel appeared and spoke to them: “ye seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified: he is risen: he is not here...but go your way, tell the disciples and Peter that he goeth before you...”

How did the women respond to the good news?

They were terrified, and they ran away! This was overwhelming news! But on the way home Jesus himself met them, and their fear turned into joy, as they recognized him, and worshipped him: and they carried the news to the other disciples. At first the other disciples did not believe them, but later the same day Jesus appeared to them all, and their disbelief was turned to faith, their sorrow to joy, when they saw the Lord.

What do we mean by Resurrection?

- We do not mean a ghost or spirit, someone who belongs to the dead.
- We do not mean a mystical vision or hallucination.
- We do not mean that Jesus came back to life (resuscitation). He did not come back to life. He “crossed over” to a new life beyond death. He will never suffer and die again.
- Resurrection is new life for body and soul. Nothing is left in death. The new body is a “spiritual body” – yet it eats and drinks, touches and can be touched. It is a real body, under different conditions of existence.
- Resurrection is that Man (body and soul) now shares the life of God – his power, freedom, wisdom, goodness, and everything else that is his is ours.

How do we share in Christ's Resurrection?

It is easy to share Christ's resurrection: because when he rolled away the stone, he left the door open for us to follow! With the disciples, we too can enter into the new life of God's Spirit, by belief in Christ crucified and risen – even while we are still living in this world.

What is the Sign of this new life of Resurrection?

In this world, the sign of this new spiritual life is Baptism, wherein we die and rise with Christ – dying to sin and rising again to righteousness – so

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that we who are born under judgment and wrath due to sin are reborn as the children of grace – God's favour and mercy.

Faith & Baptism

Those who believe the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen, and are baptized are not condemned with the sinful world, but are saved eternally. (Mark 16:16).

Our own Resurrection

We are raised spiritually in this life, through the forgiveness of sins. After we die, when Christ comes again, we shall be raised bodily, and be filled with glory.

Activity:

Activities planned by the Special Event Committee