

The Empty Tomb

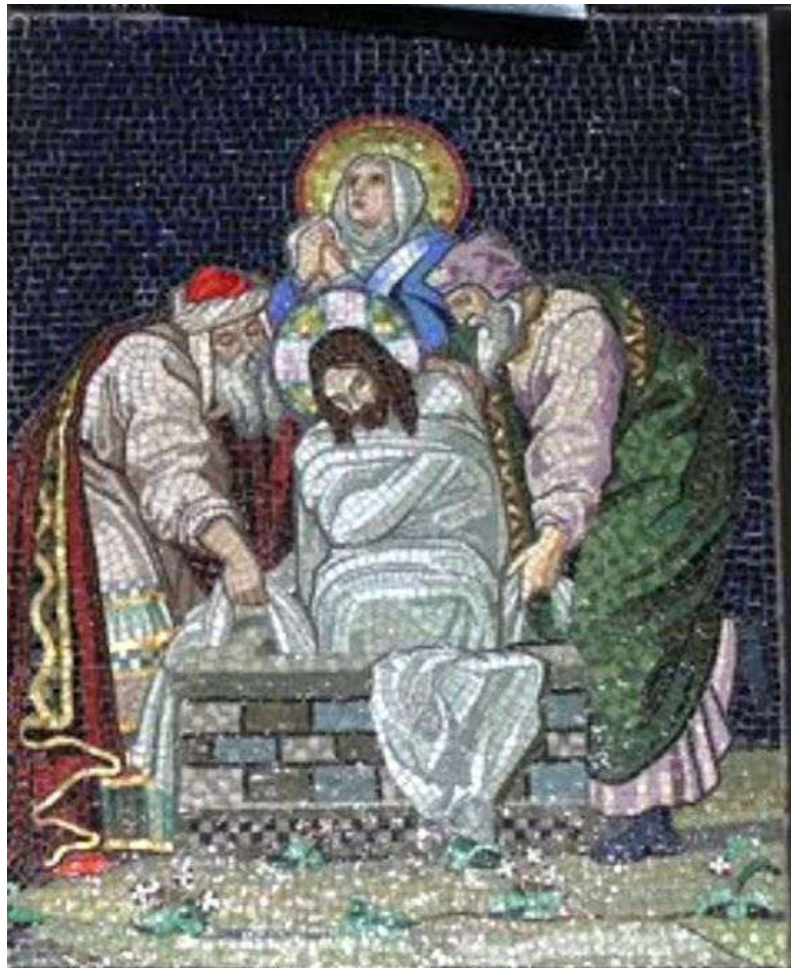


Today, we will be thinking about what actually happened on Easter Sunday morning when Jesus rose from the dead.

Part 1....

This part involves the retelling of the story. Many prefer to omit this section and go straight to the account which is read directly from the Scriptures.

After Jesus died, they took the body from the cross and put it in the tomb. Tomb is like a cave in the hillside carved out of rock.



They closed the tomb, and put a stone in front of it to protect it from wild animals.

Two soldiers were also in front of the tomb.



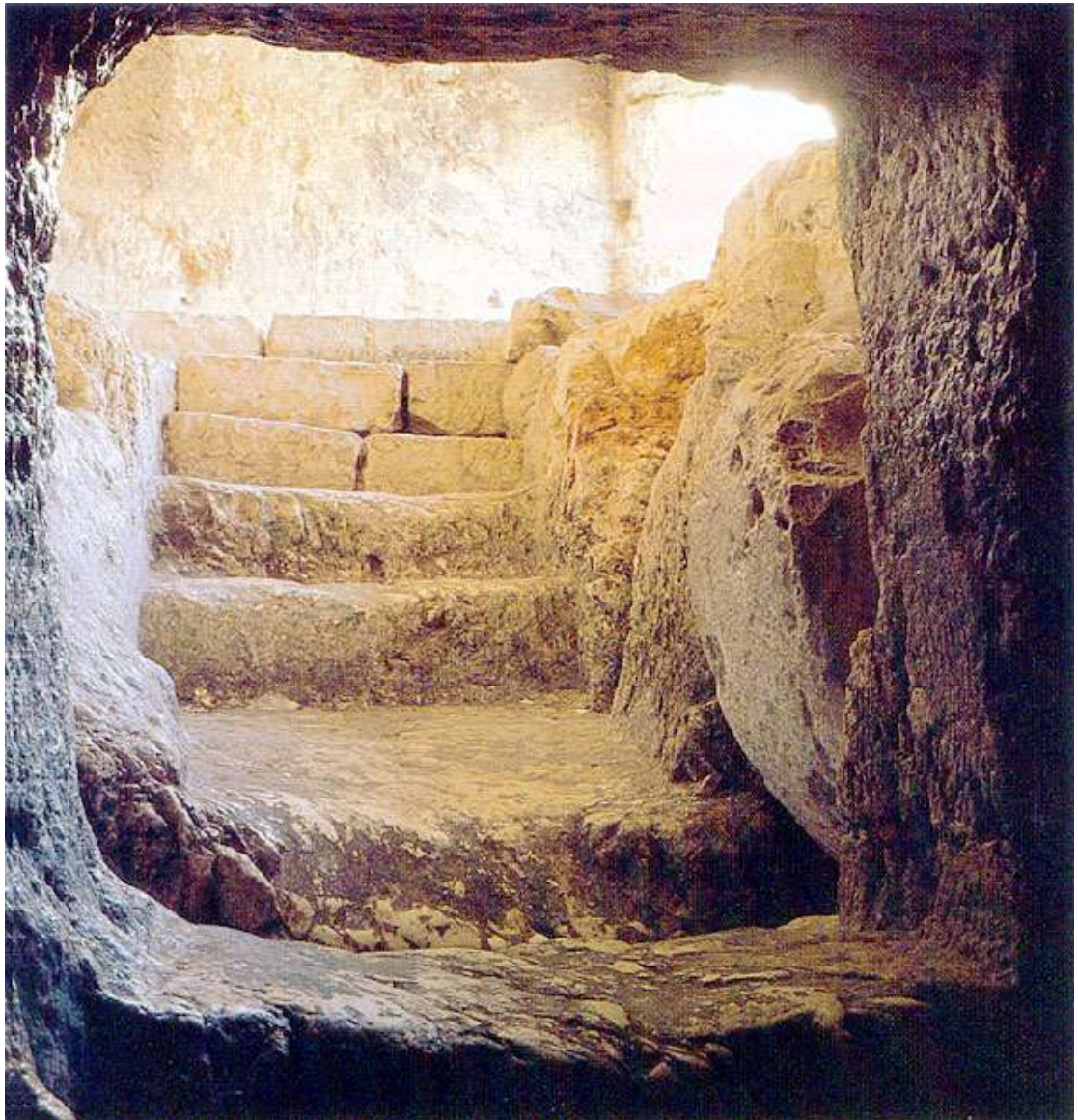
On Good Friday, there wasn't enough time for the body of Jesus to be properly prepared.

His friends could only put the body in the tomb, cover it with a sheet and leave it there until they came back later.

They could not prepare the body the next day - it was their Sabbath rest.

Early Sunday morning, some women came to prepare the body.

They were wondering if the guards would help them to roll back the heavy stone...



Part 2. (Light candle. Read from the Bible...)

Mt 27: 57-66 Jesus In The Tombl

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. 59 Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it (in) clean linen 60 and laid it in his new tombl that he had hewn in the rock.

Take a linen cloth and put it in the tombl - it can be made to look as if Jesus is inside, but it is in fact empty.

Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tombl and departed.

Roll the stone in front of the tombl.

61 But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tombl.

Place the two women facing the tombl. Wait a little while, and then take them away out of sight.

62 The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, 'After three days I will be raised up.' 64 Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' This last imposture would be worse than the first." 65 Pilate said to them, "The guard is yours; go secure it as best you can." 66 So they went and secured the tombl by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

Place the two guards in front of the tombl.

Matthew 28:1-10. The Resurrection

1 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

Bring the two women to the front of the tomb.

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.

Bring the angel to the tomb, roll back the stone, and place the angel above it.

3 His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. 4 The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.

Have the soldiers fall over and lie down.

5 Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Open up the tomb and have the women go beside the resting place. Open up the cloths - Jesus is not there!

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." 8 Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.

Have the women leave and go around to the side of the tomb; then have the soldiers leave.

9 And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

Have a figure of Jesus meet the women beside the tomb.

10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Take the figure of Jesus and put him out of sight behind the tomb.

Move the women some distance further, but still in view.

I Wonder....

I wonder how the women are feeling on the way to the tomb?

I wonder what they felt when the stone was rolled away and the tomb empty?

I wonder what it was like for them to meet an angel?

I wonder, could this news be for us too?

I wonder what Jesus' rising from the dead means for us?

I wonder how Jesus shares his risen life with us?

Song: "He's Alive"

You might like to draw or paint what happened here.

Jesus who died and is alive.

Now we will need to get this work ready for the next person.

