

## **Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021**

### **Happy Easter! The Lord is Risen! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

Today we celebrate one of the most important days in the church. We celebrate because Jesus rose up from the dead and came back to life. Easter is a wonderful celebration.

Now I would like you to take an imaginary trip with me back in time. Way back to the time when Jesus walked this earth. His apostles, his mother and his friends were shocked and afraid when Jesus was arrested and put to death. They were not from this big city of Jerusalem. They were from small towns and villages. They did not know who they could trust, so they stayed together in the room where they had celebrated the first night of Passover with Jesus. Jesus had told them that he would die and then be raised again to life. They just didn't understand how that could happen. I am pretty sure that they talked about Jesus and repeated the stories that he had told them. They needed to understand what Jesus expected them to do now.

Mary Magdalene and a few other women wanted to go to the tomb where Jesus was laid to rest so that they could anoint his body with special oils. They were not able to do this on Good Friday because they had to get ready for the Sabbath. Jesus and his followers followed Jewish traditions.

Very early on that Sunday morning, the women took the oils and went to the tomb. When they got there they saw that the large rock had been moved away from the tomb. That was the first of many surprises for them that day.

They went into the tomb which was a cave cut into the hillside. They were surprised again when they saw a young man inside. He was an angel who told them that Jesus was alive and on his way to another village. When the women turned around they were amazed to see that the cloths that had been wrapped around the body of Jesus had been folded neatly and left on the bench where his body had been. The women had also heard the stories that Jesus had told his apostles about his death and resurrection. But right now they were too surprised to understand. They left the tomb so that they could go tell his followers what they had seen and heard.

In the days that followed, Jesus would appear to all of them. He would also continue to teach and prepare them to spread the Good News to others.

Jesus was asking a lot of them. These were not men and women who had been studying all of their lives. They were fisherman, tax collectors maybe shepherds who lived in small towns and had simple lives. Jesus chose them to follow him because

they were honest, hardworking, and willing to accept the challenge that he was offering them. It wouldn't be easy, but Jesus knew that they could do it.

The Holy Spirit came to these men and women and helped them to understand even more of what Jesus had taught them. The Holy Spirit also helped them become stronger and braver.

Our imaginary trip back in time is over. Jesus is also with us. Today Jesus calls us to follow him. He asks us to pray and to be the best we can possibly be. Take some time today to say this prayer:

Jesus, I feel happy when I think that you were raised to a new life. You loved me so much that you wanted me to be able to always have hope. That is why you willingly died. You did it to show me that I too could follow you. Help me to be strong, help me to make good choices and help me to know that if I make a mistake you will forgive me and trust me to do better. Amen

# **Hallelujah, Hallelujah, He is Risen! Happy Easter!**



He is Risen

