**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APR. 19-20, 2025**

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

**Gospel Reading**

Jn 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t 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 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, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

**Intercession**

May we continue to be resurrection people year-round by sharing compassion, faith, justice, and love with all we meeting, including support of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

 We all experience “empty tombs” in our lives. They are the dark and difficult times that are part of the human condition – when we face illness or watch someone we love suffer ill health, when our marriages go through rocky periods, when our children make choices that are contrary to our values, when economic burdens cast shadows over our living.

We can let these “empty tomb” moments draw us closer to God through reliance and surrender or we can allow them to distance ourselves from God’s consolation. Will this suffering make us stronger or just bitter?

God is always present. His love is stronger than any difficulty. Let us choose to be resurrection people who live in hope and have faith that what may seem bleak, dark, empty is really an opportunity to trust in God’s plan for us just as Jesus trusted in His Father’s plan for Him.

And as resurrection people, we can offer Christ’s consolation to those who need it. We can help them through their “empty tomb” times by addressing their material needs and strengthening their faith through our support of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal. Please pray for its success and support the appeal if you can.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

The empty tomb seems disconcerting. Mary Magdala and the disciples don’t know what to make of it at first. Was Christ’s body taken? Why were the burial clothes cast aside? And why was the head cloth separate? What does the emptiness mean? Reassurance replaces doubt though, and they come to believe, realizing the empty tomb is not bleak but hopeful. Nothing, not even death, is final.

The good news is that Jesus kept His promise. That is what the empty tomb signifies. It represents life, not death. And each time we live like Christ, He is raised from the dead again through us. We can be ministers of the resurrection when we work for justice, offer reconciliation, model trust in God, act compassionately, and share our good fortune with those in need, such as supporting the Bishop’s Stewardship Appealand its many programs.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Empty tomb.

Header: “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” – John 20: 2.

Copy: The tomb is empty because Christ is with us! When you feel Jesus’s presence in your life, sit with it, and enjoy! Extend Christ’s friendship to those in need through support of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.