

THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

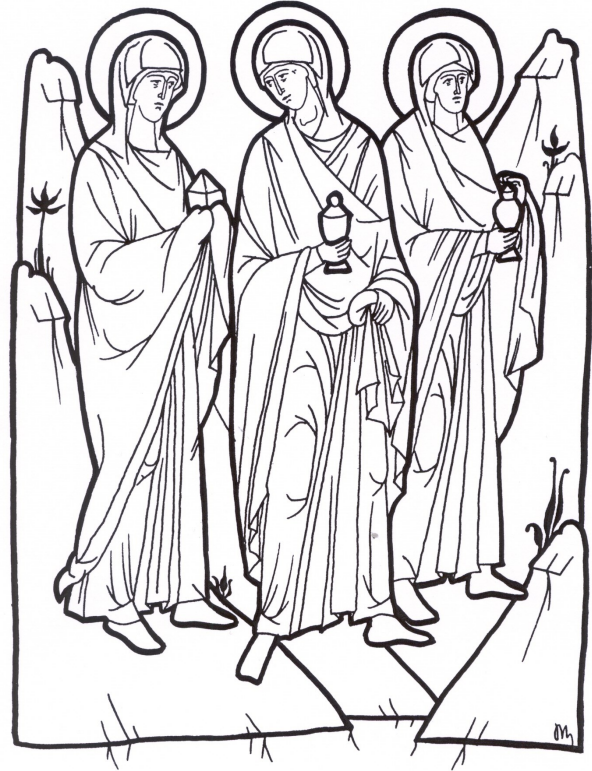
Jesus was crucified on a Friday. When he had died, his body needed to be buried. Joseph of Arimathea asked if he could bury Jesus. Pontius Pilate said, "Yes." Joseph brought a cloth to carry Jesus. It is called a shroud. He took Jesus to a rocky hillside and put his body in a cave in the rocks. Then he rolled a big rock to close the cave. Mary Magdalene watched.

Later, Mary Magdalene and two other women came to the tomb with spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They came as the sun was rising. They wondered how they would get in the tomb, since the big rock was very heavy to move. When they got to the tomb, they said, "Look, the rock is gone, we can go in!"

Inside, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe. They were amazed. He said, "Don't be amazed. You want to see Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen! Go and tell his disciples and Peter to meet him in Galilee."

They fled from the tomb, they were shaking, and so amazed. They didn't say anything to anyone, because they were afraid.

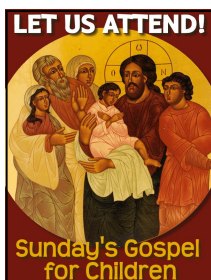
THE MYRRHBEARERS



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Joseph asked to take Jesus' body from the cross to bury it. Where did he go with the body?
2. What did he use to close the opening of the cave?
3. How many women came to anoint the body? What did they bring?
4. Why were they surprised when they came near the cave?
5. Was Jesus in the cave?
6. Their friend, Jesus, had just been crucified. Now he is not in the tomb. What would you feel if you were one of the women?



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Pre-12



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THE WOMEN CAME TO THE TOMB

After our Lord Jesus Christ died, a brave man named Joseph went to Pilate to ask for Jesus' body. When Pilate was sure that Jesus was dead, he said Joseph could have the body.

Joseph wrapped Jesus' body with a linen cloth and laid it in a tomb. The tomb was carved out of rock. A big stone was rolled against the door of the tomb.

The next day was the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest. On the day after the Sabbath, Mary Mag'dalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to put on Jesus' body. Very early in the morning, as the sun was coming up, they walked to the tomb to put the spices on Jesus' body. All the way, they talked about how they were going to get the stone away from the tomb so they could get inside.

When the women got to the tomb, there was a big surprise waiting for them—the big stone was rolled away from the tomb's door! When they stepped inside, there was another surprise. A young man in white was sitting there. He had a message for them, "Don't be surprised. You are looking for Jesus. He is not here because He has risen from the dead! See where His body had been? It is empty! Now, go tell the disciples and Peter to go to Galilee, where you will see Him!"

Quickly, the women ran out of there. They were shaking and amazed! They couldn't even speak, because they were so surprised. Jesus had come back to life again!

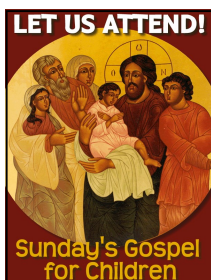
·THE MYRRHBEARERS·



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who asked if he could bury Jesus? Where did he take Jesus?
2. What time of day was it when the women arrived to put spices on Jesus' body?
3. What surprised them when they got near the tomb?
4. Did they find Jesus?
5. Who spoke with them? What did he say?
6. What did the women do next?
7. Imagine being Mary Magdalene . . . You saw Jesus crucified, then buried. What feelings would you have on that early morning at the tomb?



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THE WOMEN HEAR THE GOOD NEWS FIRST

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back-- it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

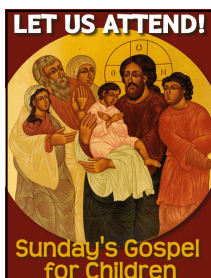
THE MYRRH-BEARERS



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How do the women react when they enter the tomb and see a young man sitting in it?
2. What does it mean to be amazed?
3. Why are the women amazed?
4. Do you think it is normal for them to be amazed at what they saw? What do you think is amazing in this gospel?
5. Why do you suppose the young man tells them, "Do not be amazed"?
6. Would the young man tell you, "Do not be amazed" at what you found amazing in this gospel? Why or why not?



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THE WOMEN HEAR THE GOOD NEWS FIRST

Characters: Narrator, Women, Young Man

Narrator: At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another,

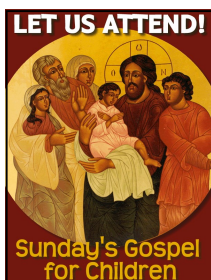
Women: Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?

Narrator: And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back-- it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them,

Young Man: Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.

Narrator: And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



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THE WOMEN ARE FIRST TO HEAR

At that time, Joseph of Arimathe'a, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Mag'dalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Mag'dalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salo'me, bought spices, so



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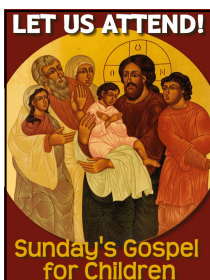
that they might go and anoint him. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back-- it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed.

And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does it mean to be amazed?
2. What are the women in this story amazed at?
3. Do you think it is reasonable for them to be amazed?
4. Why do you think the young man tells them, "Do not be amazed"?
5. Why shouldn't the women be amazed at what they see?
6. What do the women do as a result of their amazement at the end of the gospel?
7. What parts of this gospel amaze or astonish you? Why?
8. What can you do with that feeling?



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THE MYRRH-BEARERS ARRIVE

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back-- it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you

THE MYRRH-BEARERS

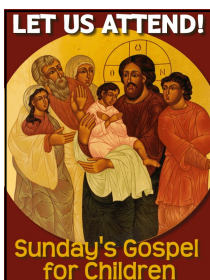


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seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who does this gospel tell us Joseph of Arimathea is? What is the council he is a member of? Why is this important?
2. What do you think the gospel means when it says Joseph "was also himself looking for the kingdom of God?" What do you think he was looking for?
3. What do you think he was trying to accomplish by asking for the body of Jesus? How is this action a result of his quest for the kingdom?
4. Do you think he found the kingdom? Why or why not?
5. What do we sing about Joseph during holy week? How does that answer question 4?
6. What might you do if you are looking for the kingdom today? How would that action be similar to Joseph's?



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