

THE EMPTY TOMB

When Mary Magdalen and the other women approached the place where Jesus was buried, they found the stone rolled back. When they entered the tomb, they discovered that it was empty. They were frightened and confused. A messenger said to them: "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified: He has risen, He is not here." (Mk. 16)

Famous people who have died often have special burial places where they have memorials. People visit these graves and honor the memory of the deceased with shrines, monuments, and even "eternal lights." People throughout history have venerated the places where their heroes and heroines have been buried. They make special journeys or pilgrimages to these burial places.

Jesus left an empty tomb. Why? Because He is not there. He has risen! The empty tomb is a reminder to all of a fundamental belief in the resurrection of Christ. The Nicene Creed expresses this mystery of faith with the words

Every effort to make society sensitive to the importance of the family is a great service to humanity.

Pope John Paul II

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that Jesus was "crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day, He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures."



The Empty Tomb by Mary Beth Impastato

The Easter Liturgy
Parents should help children prepare for the liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the Eucharist on Easter. Call the children's attention to the Easter Gospel. Discuss the experience of the women on that first Easter. Talk about their fears, their confusion, and their joy. Ask the children what they think is the key message of the Easter Gospel.

Have the children listen to the words that are repeated at each Mass: "Christ has died, Christ is

risen, Christ will come again." Ask the children if they find anything unusual about that sentence. The Church did not make a grammatical mistake here. Technically, it is incorrect to use the verb "is" with "risen." The reason the Church uses it, however, is to emphasize that the Easter experience, the Resurrection, is an on-going, continuous event. The Resurrection is now. Easter is now!

*Best wishes for
a joyous and
blessed Easter.*