



Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 4

Law/Gospel

Death is a consequence of sin and causes me sorrow. **God comforts me with the promise of the resurrection to eternal life for all who believe in Christ.**

Bible Words

[The angel said,] “He is not here, for He has risen, as He said.”
Matthew 28:6

Fun Facts

Israelites used the Hebrew word *rabbi* as a sign of respect to their teachers and religious instructors. The term eventually developed into three words denoting a teacher’s position: *rab* indicated the lowest level; *rabbi* was the next level; and *rabboni* was the highest level. The words mean “master,” “my master,” and “my lord, my master,” respectively. At the tomb, Mary called Jesus “Rabboni.”

The Empty Tomb

John 20:1–18

Today’s account centers on the empty tomb on Easter morning and Jesus’ announcement of His resurrection. After Mary Magdalene encounters the open tomb, she goes to Simon Peter and John and declares, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb” (John 20:2).

Immediately, Simon Peter and John run to the tomb. John reaches the tomb first, but only looks in. Then, Simon Peter arrives and goes into the tomb. Peter sees the linen cloths and face cloth, folded up. When John then went into the tomb and saw the signs of Jesus’ resurrection, he “saw and believed” (v. 8).

When Mary told them that the body of Jesus was not in the tomb, the most natural conclusion to Mary’s claim (v. 2) was that someone had come and stolen Jesus’ body. But the folded-up head cloth indicated that grave robbers had not taken the body of Jesus and that He was alive.

Jesus, Our Brother

Of great significance are the words Jesus speaks to Mary Magdalene in the garden after the disciples had returned to their homes. He calls the disciples “My brothers” and refers to God as “My Father and your Father” and “My God and your God” (v. 17). Because Christ shares in our humanity, He is our Brother (Hebrews 2:10–18) and has reconciled us to God.

God is our Father, and we receive countless blessings as His children, including the promised inheritance of heaven. Our sure hope, then, is this: because of the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus, we will join with Mary and all the saints in saying, “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18).

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son. Because of Him, You have called us Your children in Baptism. Thank You for making us part of Your family. In the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Brother, we pray. Amen.