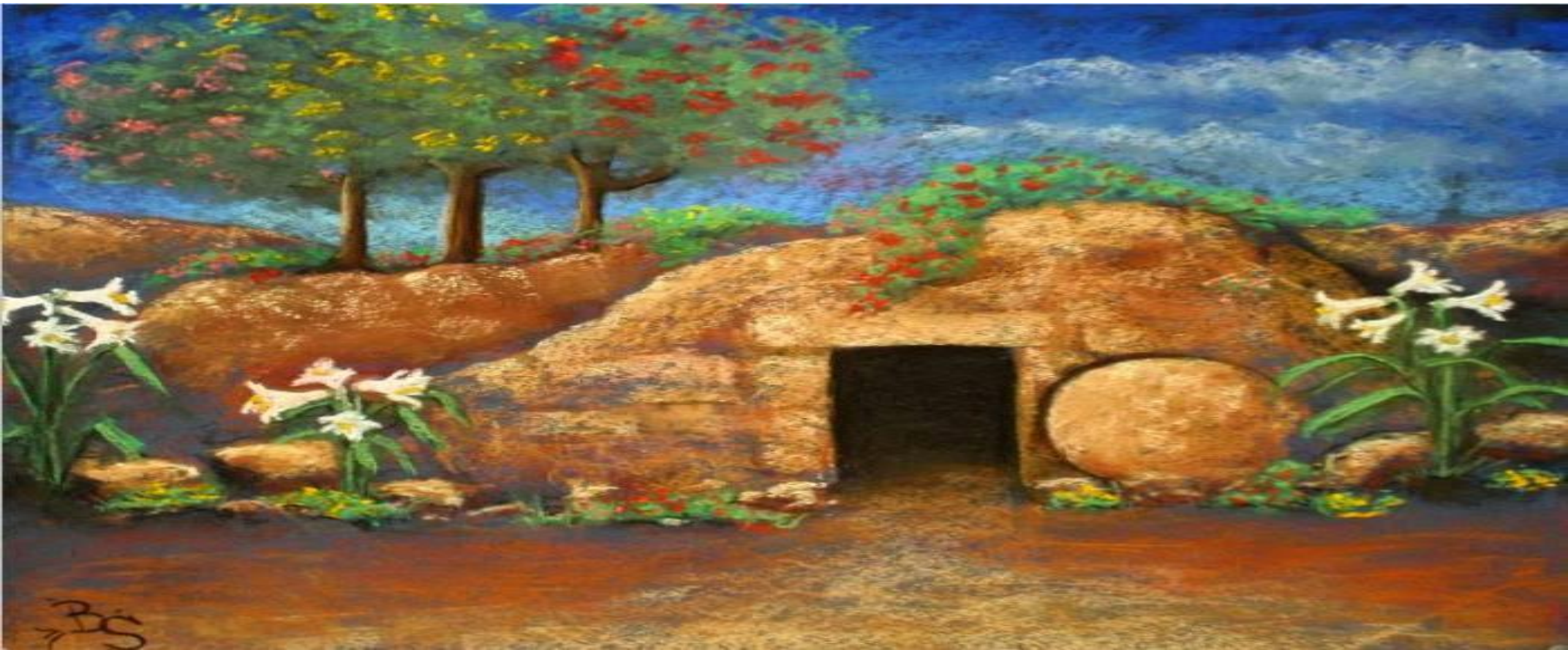


The tears of the resurrection

JOHN 20: 1-18

THE EMPTY TOMB



EASTER IS A DAY OF REJOICING

- A. Christ arose! He is risen ! (Romans 1:4)
- Christ arose! Our salvation is sure(1 Corinthians 15:17-23)
- Christ arose! We shall rise also (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)
- B. But on the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene was weeping v.11
- Why tears on this day triumph?
- Mary tears and how JESUS dried them
- C. Mary's journey from sorrow to service

THE JOY OF VICTORY

- Tears of joy are appropriate for Easter because they express our exhilaration of victory.
- There is a very important principle involved here. Victory comes out of defeat. Life does not come after death but out of death.
- Weakness comes first and strength flows from weakness. Sorrow precedes joy; Easter follows Good Friday.
- The principle is illustrated by Mary Magdalene in our Easter text. When she came to the tomb, she wept because she thought that someone had stolen the body of Jesus
- But her tears of sorrow turned into tears of joy as she recognized the risen Savior when he said to her, "Mary."
- She came to an empty tomb - out of death came the victory of life.

VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH

- God's victory over humankind's greatest and ultimate enemy, death. God raised Jesus from the dead.
- The empty tomb Mary Magdalene found is evident of God's glorious victory, a victory so great that we shed tears of joy.
- Now we can stand at a grave and challenge it in the words of St. Paul, "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" Now victory calls for a celebration.
- On this Easter day let the hallelujah choruses be heard throughout the world. Blow the trumpets! Wave the banners! Shout, "The victory is ours!" Cry tears of joy! To this day

DEATH THE GREATEST ENEMY

- We cannot appreciate the victory unless we realize the dreadfulness of death. All other enemies of humanity are insignificant when contrasted with death.
- Humans can overcome all other enemies but only God could put death to death by the resurrection of Christ.
- Think of what death does to us. It breaks up a family circle of loved ones, and if we truly love each other, this is a horrible loss.
- You can work hard and save your money, but death takes all of it away from you. Is that fair?

DEATH TURNS LIFE INTO TRAGEDY

- A person can reach the heights of pomp and power, but death brings the mighty to dust and ashes.
- You may be a scholar and spend years acquiring knowledge, but death causes all of it to evaporate into nothingness.
- Death turns life into tragedy. It takes away the meaning of life.
- If death is the ultimate, if there is no cure for death, then we may just as well "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die!" What an enemy, but more so, what a victory!

DEATH IS DEAD

- On Easter, we shout victoriously, "Death is dead!"
- But, we must understand that this does not mean we shall not physically die.
- It is appointed for every person to taste death.
- God programmed us to die physically, and we all have an appointment with death.
- HENCE the word of GOD says, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the lord from now on' (Revelations 14:13)

SPIRITUAL DEATH IS CONQUERED

- No, the death over which God gives victory is spiritual death caused by separation from God.
- As St. Paul wrote, nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God or God himself.
- Though we physically die, we shall continue to live in and with God.
- And this is our comfort when we mourn the loss of those who died in Christ.
- Each Easter Moravians hold their sunrise Easter services, not in their churches, but in a cemetery. In the midst of death, the good news of victory over death is proclaimed.
- The dead in the graves are not really dead; they live with Christ.

JOY OF TRUTH

- We need to know and understand the truth of God for our stability and security. Without the truth, we are confused.
- We want answers and solutions; we already have plenty of questions and problems.
- We are on sinking sand until we have the truth, and then our feet are on solid rock.
- Like Mary, we want to take hold of Jesus, the truth, and not let go.

MARY MAGDALENE



MARY'S DEPRESSION (VV .11-130)

- Mary went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus
- When she arrived , the tomb was empty and Jesus was not there.
- She had to do the work of an undertaker
- Her spices for anointing show her pessimism
- Her discovery seems to confirm her doubts
- Many like Mary are defeated by their doubts
- Are you filled with anxiety
- Do you believe in Christ and doubt his power

Angels question Mary: Why weepst thou

- Mary doubted the Lord's promise
- Mary doubted the Lord's power
- Mary doubted the Lord's presence
- Mary tears were needless. Christ had risen
- Are you worrying over things that will not happen?
- Tread your fears for faith and rest in the risen Christ

Mary's devotion

- Mary may have felt the cross and the loss more than others
- She had been delivered from seven devils (Mark 16::9)
- “Seven” shows she had been completely under their power.
- Christ had set her free!
- The Lord's question: “Woman , why weepest thou ?”
- Mary turns and see JESUS but does not recognise Him.

Mary Magdalene with Jesus



Some times deep emotions blinds us to the presence of Jesus

- Deep depression : so sad we do not see Jesus
- Deep anger : so mad we do not see Him
- Deep joy: so glad we not see Him
- They have taken away my Lord
- If this had been true, tears would have been timely
- But no one can do this (John 10:28-30)
- Jesus speaks : “Mary”. And Mary responds : “Master”

Mary's Direction (VV.17-18)

- “ Go to my brethren” (first time addressed as brethren)
- Mary is given a mission to carry out for Jesus
- Life is good when we give ourselves to the work of Christ
- Invitation to the Discouraged People to come to Jesus
- Tell them the guarantee of our saviour

Our saviour had conquered the grave(Rom1:4

- All philosophers have died as fools die
- All conquerors have been conquered by death
- All kings have been ruled by death
- Even religious leaders all are in their graves
- ALL HAVE DIED(HEBREWS 9: 27)
- Samson was not strong enough to resist death
- Solomon was not wise enough to escape death
- Methuselah live 969 yearsbut final died

Only Jesus conquered death

- Likewise on this Easter day, we rejoice with tears of joy because we have the truth in the Risen Christ, for the whole Christian faith ultimately rests on the resurrection.
- If Christ did not rise from the dead, our faith would be in vain.
- The Resurrection gives us the truth that God can be trusted.
- It says to us positively that God is and that God is in control of the world and our lives. It was God who raised Jesus.
- It was God who did what no man could do - he rolled away the stone from the tomb. On Good Friday, we wondered where God was that he would allow his Son to be crucified.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

- In the light of this, no college teacher can upset or scare us with a philosophy that God is dead.
- His living reality is witnessed in the Resurrection. How happy we are to know that God lives and reigns!
- Easter, moreover, gives us the truth of Jesus. Is he or is he not God's Son, the Messiah, the Redeemer, and our Saviour?
- When he suffered and died on a cross like the two thieves, we may have had doubt that his words were true. .
- He said, "The Father and I are one," and "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

All others died and forgotten

- Now we know his words are solid truth.
- No other person was raised from the dead. No other religious leader, no wise sage, no ruler with power had that experience.
- Of all the billions of people that lived, only one was raised from the dead. He was the God-man. Jesus, for a fact, is God's only Son.
- He does have the authority to forgive our sins, and he does have the power to save us.
- Oh, what wonderful truth that rejoices the heart! Now I am sure I can put my whole trust in him for eternal life.

Personal Experience

- The joy of Easter is not only in personally being known by Christ but in our knowing him personally.
- When Mary Magdalene went to the Disciples, she exclaimed, "I have seen the Lord!"
- It was a personal experience. "I," not someone else, but "I" had the experience.
- I have "seen," not I have been told or I heard about it, but I myself have actually "seen" the Lord. She was excited and thrilled.
- This really happened to her. She really saw and spoke to the risen Christ!

The joy of experience

- This is an experience that everyone, even today, can have, and when we have that personal confrontation, we experience the joy of Easter.
- The problem with some of us is that we are Christians without any experience.
- When we apply for a job, "experience" of some years is usually demanded.
- Can you say with Mary Magdalene that you are a Christian with experience with Christ?

The risen Christ lives in me

- What does this personal experience with the risen Lord mean to us?
- It means we have the knowledge and assurance, beyond all doubt, that Jesus did rise from the dead and that he lives here and now.
- Many "infallible proofs" can be given for the Resurrection, but the one infallible of infallible proofs is Christ's living in us.
- "I know he lives because he lives in me."
- How do I know that he lives in me?

Christ lives in me

- Because his presence in me makes me sorry for my sins
- Makes me love to worship him,
- Compels me to work in his body, the church,
- Motivates me to glorify him in every word and deed, and drives me to serve him by loving others.
- Then, rejoice, people - rejoice that you have a living Christ who lives to bless you real good!
- If your GOD IS DEAD try mine- --MINE IS ALIVE!!
- Leave Doubting Street and Live on Faith Victory Street

You need to move

Leave Doubt Street

Live on Faith Street

Shout with me hallelujah!!!!

- What do you think the angels did when Jesus was raised from the grave? Think about that.
- What do you think the angels in heaven did when Jesus was raised from the grave?
- Might they have done some noise of joy? And what should be our response?
- What should be our response on this greatest of all days?
- At least this – a shout of hallelujah, for the Lord Christ reigns. King of kings and Lord of lords.
- So shout it with me – Hallelujah! Again. Hallelujah Again. Hallelujah! Amen