

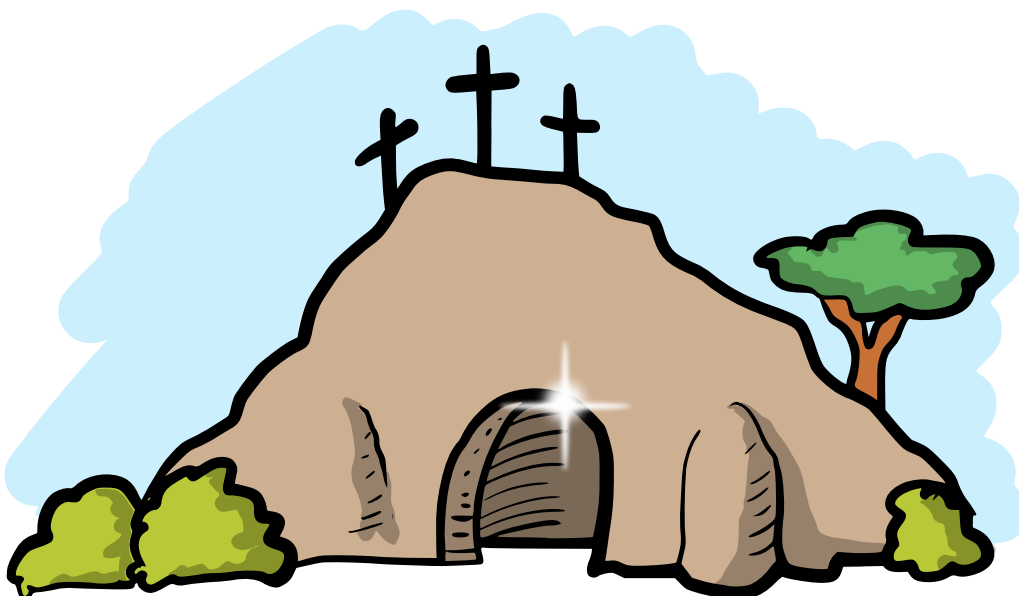
Year A - Sunday of the Resurrection

John 20: 1-9

The teaching of Scripture is that Jesus must rise from the dead.



On Sunday morning while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene went to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.
She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favourite disciple and said,
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb!
We don't know where they have put him."
Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.
They ran side by side,
until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first.
He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb,
but he did not go in.
When Simon Peter got there,
he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth.
He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face.
It was rolled up and in a place by itself.
The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb,
and when he saw it, he believed.
At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know
that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life.



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John 20: 1-9

The empty tomb

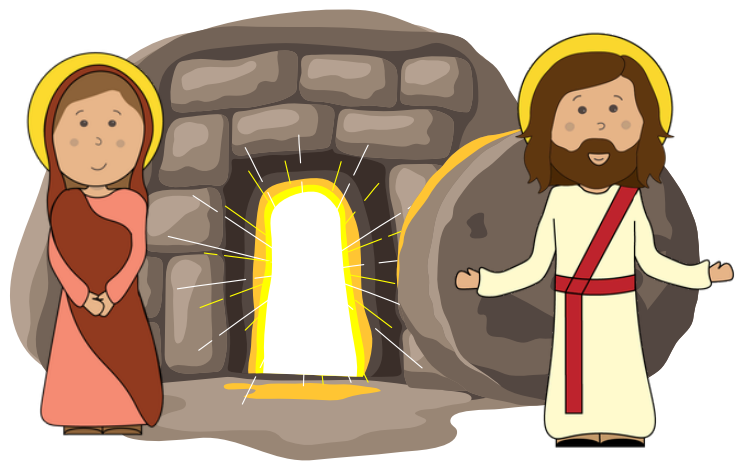


Introduction

- Today you can set the room up to look like what Mary Magdalene would have seen when she entered the tomb. Lay some cloths and bandages on the floor or table, you can add some soil or small rocks around have some jars that would have contained the oils. Lead the children into the dark room and get them to imagine that they are Mary and the disciples who came to the tomb expecting to find the body of Jesus. Then turn on the light or use a torch to reveal the 'empty tomb'.
- Ask the children how they think Mary and the disciples would have felt, what would they have thought?

Message

- This is it! The big reveal, just when everyone thought all hope was gone and the worst thing that could have happened - happened! Jesus revealed that he wasn't just a man, he was God! And the grave could not hold him!
- This is why we are here 2000 years later, why we pray to Jesus and live our lives following his path. Jesus died for our sins, and when he rose again he made a pathway for us to be with him forever in heaven when our time comes.
- Jesus did all of this out of love for us, he loves you so much that he doesn't want to be far from you, he wants to be as close as our family and our best friends.
- Jesus died and rose again, because he loves you!



Discussion

- How does it feel to know that Jesus died out of a great love for you?
- Does it make you think differently about yourself?
- Will it change how you act and what you do?