

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021

# Easter Day

Christ  
is  
Risen!

He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!

Today we celebrate that Jesus is alive!  
God's love is stronger even than death!

## Happy Easter!

In our Gospel reading, we hear St Mark's version of events on the first Easter Day  
(Mark 16: 1-8)

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark  
Glory to you, O Lord

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had

already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**





St Mark tells us that Jesus's disciples were full of terror and amazement. No wonder they were still afraid - they had experienced such horrific events over the course of the last three days and now were faced with the unimaginable prospect that Jesus had risen from the dead!

How would we feel if we had been at the empty tomb on that first Easter morning?

You might like to read the accounts of Christ's resurrection in the other three gospels - Matthew, Luke and John. Together, they give us a fuller picture of events and, reading on, we begin to see the realisation and the effect of Christ's resurrection on their lives. They are no longer afraid, but speak out about Jesus, their resurrected saviour and the Easter message of new life!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## Why Easter Eggs?



Many of us enjoy chocolate eggs at Easter, but do you know how this custom developed?

As with many customs, we start with symbolism. Eggs themselves are a symbol of new life, but Christians also believe hollow eggs symbolise the empty tomb of Jesus.

The Easter egg can be traced back to early Christians in Mesopotamia. It is thought that the custom spread from there to Eastern Europe and then to other parts of Europe. Originally, chickens' eggs were dyed and painted, and real eggs are still used as part of celebrations in Central and Eastern Europe.

These beautifully patterned eggs are from Ukraine:



In Britain, it is thought that, because Christians were not allowed to eat eggs during Lent, eggs laid by chickens during the week leading up to Easter (Holy Week), were saved and decorated as Holy Week eggs, that were given to children as gifts. The Victorians then adapted the tradition with satin-covered eggs filled with Easter gifts.

The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany in the 19th Century, but they were bitter and hard. As chocolate-making techniques improved, hollow eggs like the ones we have today were developed, quickly becoming popular and a favourite tradition today.

The following prayer comes from an old Roman ritual and would be a lovely prayer to use to bless our Easter eggs before we dive into them! (Not sure whether the chocolate versions count as "healthful food" but enjoy them anyway!)

"Lord, let the grace of your blessing come upon these eggs, that they be healthful food for your faithful who eat them in thanksgiving for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen."

You will find some activities and pictures to colour on the following pages:

# The Resurrection

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.” Mark 16:6 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 16:1-8



K Q B N Q U A S I D N A O H C  
Z Z Q O T F S W E E K L J J O  
B I D M D B H I U G T M O C Z  
V U U X A Y F N Y J E S U S T  
K V M L K I V W D F N I Y N E  
I S P I C E S I M A R Y I S F  
K O F U U J A W E C Z O I I M  
Y Q R F V R H N N S N R F R R  
V C Y A F Z O H U A N B I I C  
A Q R A B T U I S U A M R T I  
A H G I S N R Z S R U G S C Y  
T Q G Y S G H O F Y Z N T P F  
B O T T J E T D R O L L E D M  
P E M V B O N L A V T L A J R  
L W N B E D N Y G Y B O T J K

AFRAID  
RISEN  
SUNRISE

BODY  
MARY  
JESUS

FIRST  
TOMB  
WEEK

DAY  
SPICES  
ANOINT

CRUCIFIED  
ROLLED  
STONE

After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to Jesus' tomb with spices they had prepared to anoint his body. When they arrived, the stone had been moved away from the tomb's entrance. An angel appeared to them and told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and to go tell the disciples.

*"He is risen!"*

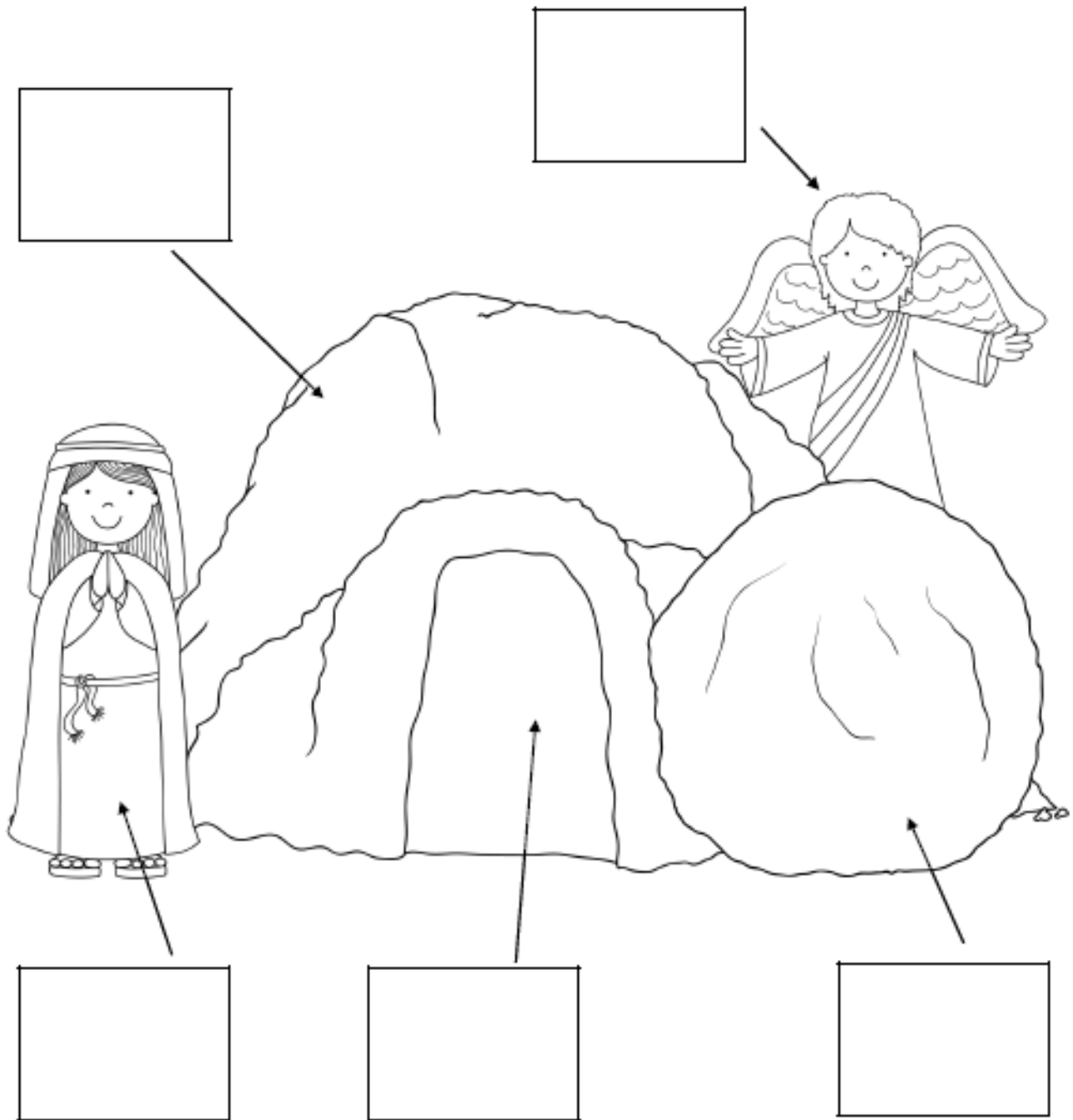


Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1-18

# Cut it Out!

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Cut out each word below and glue it beside the correct picture.



|                   |      |       |       |        |
|-------------------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| Mary<br>Magdalene | tomb | angel | stone | empty! |
|-------------------|------|-------|-------|--------|