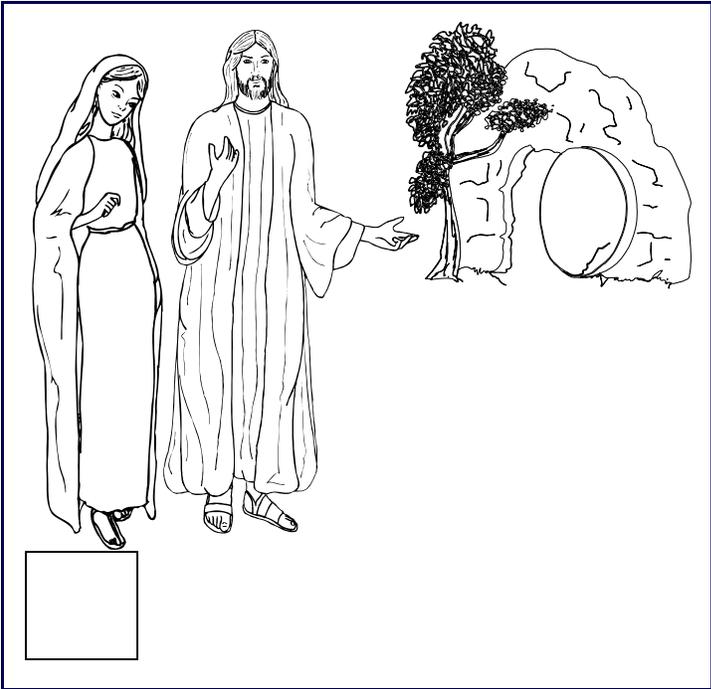
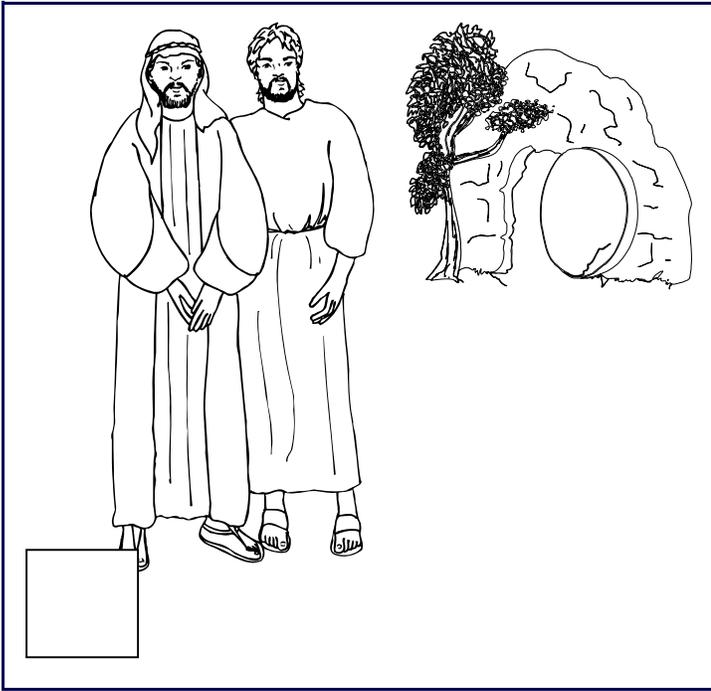
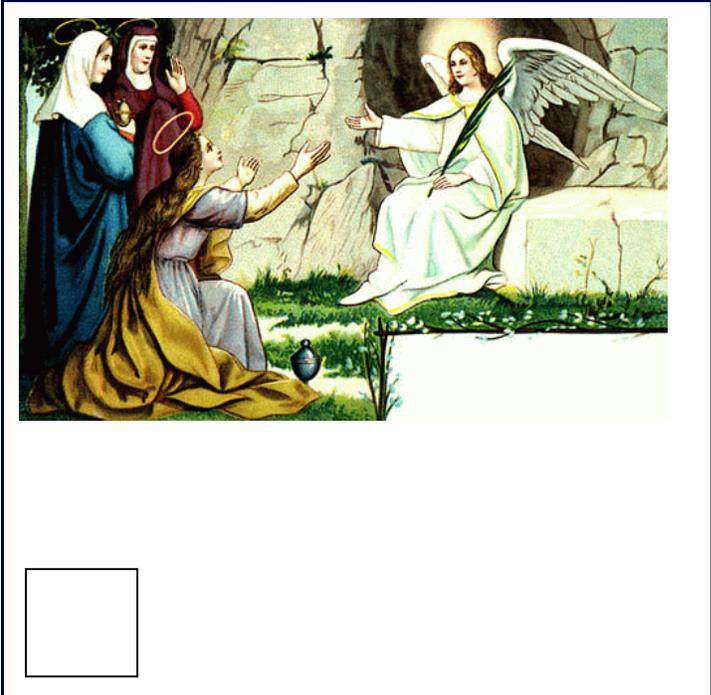


The First Appearance of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18



The Story

After 6:00 Saturday evening, when the Sabbath day of rest was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to finish the loving task of burying Jesus' body. Early Sunday morning before the sun rose, the women took the spices to the tomb. As they walked they asked each other, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" When they arrived at the grave, the stone was already rolled away.

Earlier that morning there had been a great earthquake, and an angel from heaven had rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The soldiers guarding the grave had been so frightened that they fell down as if they were dead.

When Mary Magdalene saw that the grave was open, she ran back to Jerusalem to tell Peter and John that someone had taken Jesus' body away.

The other women went into the tomb, but did not find Jesus' body. They saw two angels in shining white garments. The frightened women bowed down to the earth. One of the angels said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen as He said. Come and see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead; and indeed He is going before you into Galilee." The women quickly ran to report this good news to the disciples.

When Mary Magdalene returned to Jerusalem, she told Peter and John that the stone was rolled away from the tomb of Jesus. They ran to the grave. John outran Peter and arrived first, but he only bent down to look in and saw the linen cloths lying there. Peter went right into the tomb and saw that the linen napkin, which had been wrapped around Jesus' head, was folded by itself. Then John also

entered the tomb and believed. They returned home, marveling at what they had seen.

Now Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb and stood outside it weeping. When she looked inside, she saw two angels in white, sitting at the head and the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been.

The angels asked, "Why are you weeping?"

Mary answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord and I don't know where they have laid him."

Just then Mary turned around and saw Jesus, but did not recognize him. Jesus said, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

Because Mary thought that he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Now Mary recognized Jesus and said, "Master!"

Jesus told her not to touch Him, but to go to tell His disciples the news. When Mary did tell the disciples, they did not believe that Jesus was alive.

As the other women were hurrying back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples the message of the angels, Jesus suddenly appeared before them, saying, "Rejoice." The women held Jesus by the feet and worshiped Him. Jesus told them to tell His disciples to meet Him in Galilee.

Meanwhile, the soldiers returned to the chief priests to report the happenings at the tomb that morning. The chief priests met with the elders and decided to bribe the soldiers with money to tell a lie. They were to say that Jesus' disciples had come during the night and stolen the body while the soldiers slept.

Jesus, who died on Friday, appeared alive on Sunday as He had promised.

Review - Look at the pictures on page 1. Write the number in the box according to the directions below.

1. Find the picture that shows the soldiers who saw the angel early on Easter morning. Put a number 1 by that picture. How did the soldiers feel?
2. Find the picture that shows the first friends of Jesus who saw the angels. Put a number 2 by that picture. What did the angels tell them?
3. Find the picture of the two disciples of Jesus who ran out to the grave. Put a number 3 by that picture. What did they see that gave proof that Jesus had risen from the dead?
4. Find the picture of Mary when she saw Jesus in the garden. Put a number 4 by that picture. Why was she crying?
5. Since Jesus rose from the dead, how can we feel about death?

Passage - Write the letter that would come after the letter that is given in the alphabet. The first word is given.

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

I D R T R R Z H C A D B Z T R D H K H U D
J E S U S _ _ _ _ " _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

X N T V H K K K H U D Z K R N . John 14:19
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . "

Review - Use the words below to fill in the sentences.

stone	angels	John	spices	earthquake
gardener	Peter	angel	stolen	linen cloths
Mary	disciples	Jesus	Master	live

1. The women brought _____ to finish burying Jesus' body.
2. The women worried about the _____ that was in front of the door of the tomb.
3. Easter morning an _____ and an _____ frightened the guards.
4. Mary Magdalene thought Jesus' body had been _____
5. The other women saw two _____ in the tomb.
6. Two disciples _____ and _____ ran out to the tomb.
7. The two disciples saw the _____ _____ in the tomb.
8. Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was the _____.
9. Mary recognized Jesus when He said, " _____."
10. As the other women ran back to Jerusalem, they saw _____.
11. The chief priests told the guards to tell the lie that the _____ stole Jesus' body.
12. Explain why Jesus' resurrection is a comfort to believers.

We too will rise from the dead as Jesus rose from the dead.

Talking to Jesus

Dear Jesus,

We thank You for coming to earth to suffer and die for our sins. When You rose from the dead You showed that You had pleased our heavenly Father. Because we are sure that when we die we will also live with You in heaven, we do not have to be afraid of death. Amen.