**Esperanza Lutheran Church Sunday Funday Easter #3**

**April 25,2021**

**All Ages**

**Bible Story: The Empty Tomb**

**Emphasis: The Tomb was Empty!  Jesus had fulfilled his promise, he rose from the dead.**

**Bible Background:** Jesus shared with his disciples and the people who followed him that he was to die and in three days rise from the dead. Jesus died a horrible death on a cross.  Before the Sabbath was over they took his body down from the cross and put it in a tomb.  He was dead and the disciples and those who loved him were very sad.

All four gospels have the story of Jesus’s resurrection. Each gospel writer found the tomb empty.  The tomb was not a place for the living! So Jesus was not there… he was alive.  In **Luke**, there were two men in dazzling white cloths telling them that Jesus had risen and was not in the tomb. In **Mark**, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body but found no body. They found a man in white telling them Jesus has risen and go tell the disciples!  In **Matthew**, both Marys went to the tomb and there was an earthquake. An Angel from heaven descended down and rolled back the stone. They saw where Jesus was to be lying and it was empty so they quickly went to tell others that Jesus was raised from the dead and he is going to meet them in Galilee! In **John,** Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, found the stone rolled away and ran to tell Simon Peter.  She said they have taken Jesus!  Simon Peter and the other disciples ran to the tomb and it was empty.  All Peter saw was the linen cloth that Jesus' body was wrapped in. He had Risen from the dead.

**Read the Bible Story!:**  (Spark Bible: The Empty Tomb Pages 482-487) Luke 24:1-12, Mark 16:1-8, Matthew 28:1-,  John 20:1-8 Resurrection stories in the gospels.

**Questions:**

1. **When the women went to the tomb do you think they were sad to go into the tomb?** (They were sad  because they lost their teacher and friend Jesus.)

1. **Do you think they were scared when they went to the tomb and it was empty?**(Yes! They thought someone stole Jesus’ from the tomb)

1. **In Jesus’ time what was put in front of the tombs?(some Tombs were in caves)** (they roll a big stone to seal the entrance so no one can get in the tomb/cave.)

1. **Did Jesus stay in the tomb?** (Jesus rose from the dead and left the tomb! It was empty.  Jesus was alive and on the loose:)

**Activity: Nature or garden walk.** Go on a walk around the neighborhood or go to the garden at Esperanza church. It is spring and things are growing. New life is happening! There are many signs of life outdoors.  As a family, go on a nature hunt and search for things that remind you that Jesus is alive! Bring nature inside so you can be reminded that God’s love conquers all.

**Emphasize: The Tomb was empty that first Easter morning. Jesus was Alive!  God is creating new life all around us everyday!**

**Hold hands and end in a Family Prayer:** Thank you, Jesus, for giving your life for us.  We love you. Amen