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| **Spoiler Alert! The Tomb Is Empty**  *Promise: The Risen Christ gifts us with the benefits of His Cross* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 16; 1 Corinthians 15:9-26; Luke 24:1-12 (The Resurrection of Our Lord), 4/20/25)  *And [the women] found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.* – vv. 2-3  **Lead In –** When someone is commending a book they have read or a movie they have seen, they will likely describe elements of the narrative but not tell you the climax. That would take away the element of surprise and rob you of the chance of discovering this for yourself. When the climax is going to be talked about anyway, the speaker will often announce “Spoiler Alert!” This gives you an opportunity to opt out of the conversation so you can enjoy the ending on your own. For most if not all of us this morning we are not taken by surprise with the Easter ending to the narrative of Jesus. And we have not been pretending we didn’t know this ending during the Season of Lent. The point of our Easter celebration is not to pretend to be surprised. Rather, it is to encounter the Risen Christ where He promises to be present and come to or be renewed in faith.   1. **For the First Disciples the Joy Unfolded Slowly**    1. Perplexing and frightening discovery at the tomb…    2. The eleven discount with unbelief the early report…    3. Even with seeing, this is not enough!... 2. **We Often Consider the First Disciples the Lucky Ones**    1. Forty days of appearances, and still no clue…    2. The transformation that takes place at Pentecost…    3. The disclosure on the road to Emmaus is instructive… 3. **Living In the Transformative Power of the Resurrection**    1. Our personal Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost…    2. The Holy Spirit’s work in bringing us to faith…    3. The font, the pulpit, and the altar…   **Final Word –** And so, as we celebrate Christ’s resurrection we also rejoice that by His grace believers participate in resurrected life. Christ has not only been raised, He is Risen! He is the Resurrection and the Life. And all who believe in Him, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Him shall never die! Spoiler Alert! For believers, because Christ is risen from the grave and lives, your story has a happy ending. For ever and ever in His kingdom. And that is worth celebrating! Amen.  **Lk 24:4-5** While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”  **Lk 24:10-11** Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.  **Mk 16:10-11** [Mary Magdelene] went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.  **Jn 20:14** Having said this, [Mary] turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.  **Jn 20:16** Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). | **Luke 24:1-12 ESV**  *The Resurrection*  1On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” 8And they remembered his words, 9and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.  **Lk 24:15-16** While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.  **Jn 20:29** Jesus said to [Thomas], “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”  **Jn 21:3** *(after the Risen Christ appears to His disciples on two consecutive Sundays)* Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.  **Ac 1:16** So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”  **Lk 24:30-31** When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.  **Lk 24:32** They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”  **Lk 24:35** Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.  **Ro 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.  **Ro 6:3-5** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. |