

The Tomb is Empty

I wrote a long time ago about my Great Grandmother and her home in Brookville, PA. I was worried about straying too far from her house and not being able to find my way back. She told me to stand in front of the Woolworth's and look up the hill. There I would see her house. She was such a dear soul. I have heartwarming letters that she wrote to my Mother after the birth of my oldest Brother in 1927. My Mother was a young Mother and my Great Grandmother's letters were reassuring about my Mother's abilities. My Mother had been the oldest daughter in a family of 11 and had to quit school at the age of 10 to help at home, so my Mother had been around children her whole life. When my Great Grandmother told me to look up the hill, I felt assured that I could wander into the small town. When we were in Israel, we walked through the streets of Jerusalem and at the end of the street we came out to a huge area and ahead was the hill called Golgotha. I looked up that hill and saw the place where the crosses had stood. Jesus had died on that Cross. We went to the garden and saw a tomb carved out of the rock. When we went in the tomb there was a sign, "He is not here, he is risen." On Good Friday Jesus had died on a cross and he was wrapped in cloths and placed in a tomb. On Sunday we again celebrate that the tomb was empty when the women went to prepare the body. Christ arose. This week we will again observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. It will be different because we are still in the middle of a Pandemic. But on Easter Sunday we will return to our Sanctuary and once again the organ will peal out the hymns that celebrate the Risen Christ. How blessed we are! We will return to the sanctuary with gratitude for our gifts, with sorrow for our loss, and always knowing we are loved by God. As my Great Grandmother gave me a path to follow home to her house, so God has given us a path to follow to him. He loved us so much he gave his only Son for our everlasting life. Praise God.

Luke 24:1-3 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Lord, thank you for the risen Christ. Thank you for the empty tomb. Be with us this day, bless us as we look to Easter Sunday and to the resurrection. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve may they be comforted. Be with our Pastor and his family, bless them and bless his ministry. Be with our leaders and Staff, guide them, protect them, and give them your guidance and strength. We thank you for our days and for our Church. In the name of Jesus, the risen Christ, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson