

‘The Empty Tomb’ (John 20:1-9)

Sunday 5 April 2026 Year A

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,

Open our hearts to your Word,

Help us to sit in silence,

Reflecting deeply on your scriptures.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us to find those words that transform our lives and our world.

Amen

Scripture

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Reflection

How many times have we struggled to find the Lord?.....

How many times has He called to us, with infinite grace and mercy, to bring us home to Him?.....

As we reflect on this Sunday’s Gospel, these are central questions. Christ is ever present to us, but so many times we lose our connection to Him. We are bound up in our selfish pursuits. Entombed in our pride, our greed.

What binds us and keeps us buried in our tomb?.....

In our modern world, there are so many distractions. Many are bound in endless social media scrolling. Obsessed with selfies and self-interest. Lost in threads of trivia, harsh words and the dark places where evil lurks on the Web.

These bindings hold us in our tombs. Our better selves locked behind the entrance stone. But Christ unbinds us. He rolls away the tombstone and frees us to love. To care for the sick, to feed the poor, to share a kind word, to bring peace to every little moment.

We lose Him, but he never loses us. He goes out to seek the lost sheep and all of Heaven rejoices when we are found.

So let us take time in silence today to re-discover God dwelling in our hearts. Ever Present, All Loving, Endlessly Merciful.

Closing Prayer

We Pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,

Unbind us,

Release us from our tombs so that we may be Resurrected with You each and every day,

And with You, go out to transfigure our world bringing Your Kingdom of peace and infinite love.

Amen

For Further Reflection

In the tomb, Jesus, the living Word of the Father, is silent. But it is precisely in that silence that the new life begins to ferment. Like a seed in the ground, like the darkness before dawn. God is not afraid of the passing time, because he is also the God of waiting. Thus, even our “useless” time, that of pauses, emptiness, barren moments, can become the womb of resurrection. Every silence that is welcomed can be the premise of a new Word. Every suspended time can become a time of grace, if we offer it to God. Jesus, buried in the ground, is the meek face of a God who does not occupy all space. He is the God who lets things be done, who waits, who withdraws to leave us freedom. He is the God who trusts, even when everything seems to be over. And we, on that suspended Sabbath, learn that we do not have to be in a hurry to rise again; first we must stay and welcome the silence, let ourselves be embraced by limitation. At times we seek quick answers, immediate solutions. But God works in depth, in the slow time of trust. The Sabbath of the burial thus becomes the womb from which the strength of an invincible light, that of Easter, can spring forth.

(Pope Leo XIV - General Audience, 17 September 2025)