



This week's Word of the Week is the reading we hear on Easter Sunday morning. It tells of the disciples first discovering the empty tomb and them realising that Jesus has risen from the dead. Take a moment, as you read this reading, to imagine you are one of Jesus' disciples, how would you have felt at this moment?

WORD OF THE WEEK

JOHN 20: 1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb" she said "and we don't know where they have put him."

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the lined cloths on the ground, and saw the cloth that has been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

JESUS KEPT HIS PROMISE

In the resurrection story we read in Luke's gospel we read how the angel reminded the women at the empty tomb that Jesus had said that he would be crucified and then 3 days later, rise again.

He had kept his promise.

So if Jesus kept this most important promise, then what other promises of his will be kept?

Jesus promised us forgiveness, eternal life, his presence with us always, the Holy Spirit to help us, answered prayers, love and joy, spiritual rewards and a heavenly home. Do you know any other promises of Jesus?



Prayer for the week

Thank you Jesus, you give us hope even when all seems lost. We pray that we have faith in your presence with us even when times are difficult. Help us to recognise you in the world around us, in the kindness of others, the smiles of strangers, the love of our family and friends and the beauty of nature. Help us to remember that you are still risen and there is always hope. Amen.



Easter Hope

Did you know that the Easter story was a story of hope?

Jesus taught people about God's love and that we can show God's love by helping others. Jesus gave people hope and helped them see that life could be better.

But a big part of the Easter story is that when things got difficult and complicated, people turned away from Jesus. People didn't agree with him and Jesus was killed. When he died, everything looked hopeless. What hope was there for the future?

But the story doesn't end there.

Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. He spent time with his friends and family.

Because he did this, Jesus gave them hope for the future.

When things look really awful, there is always hope.

Do we give hope to others? Do we hope for things for our friends and family, or just for ourselves? What can we do to help others? How can we give hope to others?

