

# CONNECTING WITH GOD... THE CHURCH... YOUR PURPOSE

For the week of Sunday, April 17, 2022

Teaching Series: FREEDOM—3 Days That Changed the World

Message Title / Pastor: The Empty Tomb - Pastor Bill Wilson

## MESSAGE OVERVIEW

On Easter Sunday, the early Orthodox Church created a tradition that is followed even today. The Pastor would declare, “He is risen” and the congregation would respond, “He is risen indeed.” This tradition became a common greeting for believers when they would see other believers on the street. In the message on Easter, we considered John’s narrative that tells us that Mary Magdalene ran from the empty tomb to tell Peter and John that the tomb was empty. Both men then ran to the place where Jesus had been buried to check for themselves. What they discovered changed their lives forever.

## SCRIPTURE

- John 20:1-10
- Matthew 28:6

### Additional Scriptures:

- John 11:25
- Romans 8:11
- Acts 10:39-41
- Ephesians 3:19
- I Corinthians 15:20-22

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your “I ran out of gas in my car” story?
2. What stands out to you from Matthew's account of the resurrection found in Matthew 28:5-7?

3. Why do you think Peter and John ran to the tomb?
4. Pastor Bill in his message spoke about the empty tomb providing gifts for us. One of those gifts was redemption. What does redemption mean to you? (I Peter 1:18-21)
5. How does the empty tomb give hope to an empty life?
6. When did you first grasp the true meaning of the resurrection?
7. How does the resurrection help you pray with confidence?

## PRAYER

*Father God, we humbly come before You. As we reflect on the most dramatic and meaningful declaration of love, we are overwhelmed by Your selfless sacrifice. The suffering and shame You endured on our behalf is the greatest gift. We need Your forgiveness. We receive Your forgiveness. Thank you for Your gracious plan to reconcile us to You. Thank you for loving us so completely. Help us stay focused on Your deep, unconditional love. Help us have the courage, strength, and heart to submit ourselves to Your will. May Your prayers be our prayers, “not my will, but Yours be done!” In Jesus’ wonderful name, AMEN.*

## NOTES

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