

trinity *Tidings*

trinity
lutheran
reaching hearts, touching lives

Empty...

Empty generally isn't a good thing. When your gas gauge says, "empty," and you are fifty miles from a gas station, that's not a good thing. When the dog dish is empty, even the dog thinks that's not a good thing.

So what makes empty such a good thing?

Empty Cross

What if the cross weren't empty? If Jesus had been hung on that cross and that was it, would it matter? Absolutely!

The cross must be empty. It can't be any other way or our Christian faith is useless. If Jesus didn't conquer death, then what did He conquer? If not death, then everything else becomes a maybe.

Maybe He can overpower my fears. Maybe He can get me to the other side of my greatest challenges. Maybe He can help me through my day. Maybe He will forgive me. Maybe He loves me. If the cross isn't empty, we could just as easily say, "But then again, maybe not!"

You and I, we need the cross to be empty because empty says, "Jesus paid the price in full. His death paid for my sins. He has conquered death; therefore, He can conquer anything I encounter." Nothing is impossible with God as long as the cross is empty.

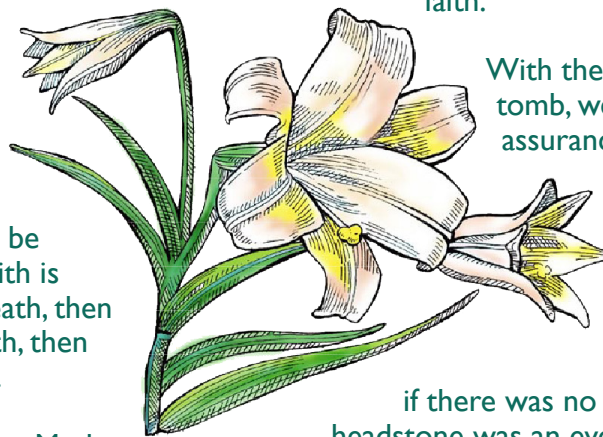
Empty Tomb

What if the cross was empty, but the tomb wasn't? Would one be of value to us if the counterpart didn't exist?

Empty cross must be followed by empty tomb. If the cross is empty, but not the tomb, then every promise of God is empty. If Christ did not rise, then our faith is useless and we are still in our sins. What an unsettling thought. Fortunately, we don't have to address that unsettling thought.

Because the tomb is empty, Christ has demonstrated His power over death and if He has power over death, then His power is unlimited and, best of all, that unlimited power is available to us by faith.

With the empty cross and the empty tomb, we have proof, confidence, assurance that God is who He says He is and He will do what He has promised to do.



Empty Grave

Empty cross and empty tomb are great, but what if there was no empty grave? What if our headstone was an everlasting marker which merely acknowledged that we existed?

We need the empty grave as much as we need the empty tomb. The promise of the empty grave is our assurance, our guarantee that we, too, will rise again, that, on the Last Day, God will work another amazing work as He transforms our bodies in the twinkling of an eye so that, we, as body and soul, can live forever with Christ.

That promise of the empty grave is our guarantee that God will act on our behalf now and when this world draws to a close.

Most of us would agree that "empty" generally isn't a good thing. However, there are exceptions, wonderful, fantastic, amazing exceptions. As you celebrate this Easter season, celebrate "empty" because it's a great thing!