

Mary and Mary and Salome

(This introduction is addressed to the congregation: The children's message this morning is based on the Gospel text in Mark. Three women visit the grave of Jesus to anoint his body. They have come as soon as possible, honoring the Sabbath as a day in which burial customs are suspended. The women fully expected Jesus to be there. They would come, anoint the body of Jesus, pray and then leave. To their amazement Jesus is gone. They wonder and then they become fearful. Let me share this with the children.)

The story today is about
Mary, Mary and Salome.
They were very, very brave.
They walked to Jesus' burial cave.
They came because they wanted to care
For the body of Jesus that was supposed to be there.
Cloth and spices with them they brought
To anoint the body as they had been taught.

But to their amazing surprise
The cave was completely empty inside.
The stone door had been rolled away.
No one was there where Jesus should lay.
Instead, a young man all dressed in white,
Sat by the rock door in the morning light.
He said to the women, "He is not here."
The women stepped back in great fear.
The young man firmly said,
"Go! Tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus is not dead.
You have good news to joyfully bring.
For Jesus is now the resurrected King."

But the women shook with fright.
We cannot tell others about this sight.
Confused and frightened they stood in shock
Wondering how someone had moved the huge rock.
Now more frightened than before
They promised to keep this a secret for evermore.

But this secret was too big to hold.
As we are repeatedly told.
Jesus is risen and He is here to stay.

He is in our hearts and our minds every day.

Let us pray.

Dear God,

We wanted Jesus to be in the grave

But he was beyond the grave.

He was with you and us.

Thank you for sharing Jesus with us.

Amen