

“Threatened by Resurrection”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

GOSPEL READING Luke 24:1-12 NRSVue

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

DISCUSSION

1. How are the women’s responses to Jesus different from the male disciples? Today, more women are involved in church than men. Why do you think that is?
2. What are ways today that we look for the living among the dead? Why is it so easy to look for love and life in all the wrong places?
3. The two angels told the women to remember what Jesus had already said. How might remembering and recollecting help strengthen our faith?
4. When the women came to the tomb, they found it both open and empty, but did not find Jesus. How is the open and empty tomb a powerful witness to the Jesus who is not there?
5. The women believed, but the disciples thought their words were an idle tale, nonsense, even delirious. What is going on here?
6. How does the open and empty tomb make a difference in your life today?