

## Sermon (All-age): 2021/04/04 (Easter Sunday, Year B) - Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-16a\_BTR

[Invite children to the front. Ingredients for making pancakes, bowl, wooden-spoon; and three eggs emptied of their yokes, and with a small scroll of paper inserted into each 1. "He." 2. "Is." 3. "Risen."]

"Easter" - The Feast of the Resurrection - is a very, very special day.

And a "special day" calls for a special breakfast.

Don't you think?

And I'm thinking...*pancakes*.

(Any excuse, right?)

So, I've got the ingredients here -

Milk

Butter.

Syrup.

Sugar; *and*, of course,

eggs.

Let's begin, okay?

*Right* - flour first. (In the bowl it goes.)

The key, I've been told, is to make a little "well" in the center into which one should pour everything else.

(*Oh!* It's like that TV show, 'The Great British Bake-off'!)

Next: we crack the eggs.

Here we go....

[Break egg no. 1]

*Oh!*

Huh.

That's not at all what I expected.

Where's the yoke?

*And what's that?!*

[Let a child retrieve and read from the scroll.]

Weird!

We can't cook with that.

Let's try another:

[Break egg no. 2]

*Not again!*

What's going on?

The yoke isn't there either!

[Let a child retrieve and read from the scroll.]

But they do say: "the third time's the charm..."

[Break egg no. 3]

*What?!*

It's almost like a puzzle we need to solve.

[Let a child retrieve and read from the final scroll.]

I wonder: can you arrange those three words into a meaningful message?

[Wait.]

*Yes He is!*

Jesus *is* risen.

When the women went to the tomb expecting to find Jesus' bruised, battered, bloodied body *they didn't*.

It was empty!

Well, *almost* empty - like my eggs:

*they* were missing what was *supposed* to be inside - the yokes - and instead we found notes of paper telling us an *amazing* message.

And what the women found instead of what was "supposed" to be there - a dead Jesus - *there was an angel!*

An *actual* angel - *from Heaven!*

Sitting right where they had laid Jesus' poor, mistreated body.

And that angel told them that Jesus wasn't there.

He was alive.

He *is* alive, *right now!* In fact.

Just like He promised.

*Alleluia!*

Let's pray:

Lord God, you designed everything to wither and perish, so that there might be a Great Circle of Life. But though we *will* die, we know now that - because of the

Empty Tomb - there's no reason to fear, not for those who love you. "Sweep" away, then, any lingering anxiety about The Virus; and, by your Holy Spirit, remind us of what's *most* important: *faithfulness*. (Serving and glorifying you.) Give us, then, we ask, an exuberant, effervescent, throw-caution-to-the-wind faithfulness. In Jesus' triumphant name we pray, amen.