

EASTER SUNDAY: STUDENT

The Resurrection and You: Come and See

MATTHEW 28:1–10

OPENING

Read Joel 2:13 together.

Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13

Prayer: Father in heaven, You called Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, out of death and the grave and raised Him back to life, thus showing that His sacrifice for the sins of the world was acceptable to You. As we gather together to celebrate with joy His glorious resurrection, lead us always to know that we live by faith and not by sight. Help us always to believe in the promises that the empty tomb assures us of, namely the resurrection of our own bodies and life everlasting with You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

L: He is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed!**

All: **Alleluia!**

INTRODUCTION

When they woke that first Easter morning, little did anybody know that everything had changed for those who would believe in Jesus. However, Jesus had been saying this to His disciples for some time. “From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, *and on the third day be raised*” (Matthew 16:2; emphasis added).

It can be very difficult while experiencing grief and loss to remember those things God's Word tells us that can bring us peace and hope in the midst of sorrow. Yet, as those who are called to believe in Jesus, we are called to believe not only that Jesus suffered and died on a cross but also that God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus' resurrection brings that peace and hope to all who believe. On this day, we celebrate the Lord's resurrection. Each and every day is Easter to us because we have been called to faith in Him who was raised. As Jesus told His disciples, “Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19). For this reason, you are invited this morning, with the same invitation given to the women at the tomb by God's messenger—the angel sitting on top of the stone—to “come and see.”

QUESTIONS

Q1. “Seeing is believing,” or so the saying goes. Is this true?

Q2. What were the women who came to the tomb that morning going there to do? What did they expect to see? Read Mark 16:1–2; Luke 24:1. In detail, give a description of what they actually saw.

Q3. Why do you think the guards “trembled and became like dead men”? What was the women’s response? What was the disciples’ response to the women?

CONCLUSION

When they awoke that Easter morning, the women did not expect to see the things that they encountered. They probably expected to go to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ lifeless body and to wipe away many tears of sorrow and loss. Instead, they experienced a myriad of emotions when they stumbled upon an angel from heaven, a rolled-away stone, two catatonic guards, and no *body* in the tomb. Such words of comfort and joy the angel said to the women that morning: “He is not here, He is risen, just as He said.” And still today, over two thousand years later, we echo that Good News, that Gospel refrain, “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

In a sense, every day for us now is Easter. He lives, and because He lives, we shall live also. Come and see what the Lord has in store for you. Come and see what the Lord has prepared for you. And one day come and see Him as He is for we shall be like Him.

CLOSING

OPTIONAL: SING STANZAS 1, 4, 5 OF “ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN” (*LSB* 474).

Prayer: Loving Father, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus, from death and the grave, You have indeed opened to us everlasting life. Allow us, by the ways You have chosen, to “come and see” our risen Lord Jesus through the means of Word and Sacrament, until that day when He returns and we shall see Him as He is in all His glory, and we shall be like Him. In the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.