Go And Tell **April 5, 2026**

Matthew 28 1-10
1 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me" (NRSV).

I don’t have to tell you what day it is. We all know the story; it’s a narrative so foundational that any Christian can tell it. We gather today to look once more at the scripture concerning the discovery of the empty tomb, the announcement of Jesus’ resurrection, and the reality of Him appearing alive after death. At its heart, this day is about the intersection of resurrection, life, and God. The Good News is simple yet world-changing: He has risen. This special moment is our time to celebrate the resurrection as it was foretold by the prophets and by Jesus Himself. He has been raised, just as He said. This miracle is the very reason we are here—not just today, but every Sunday. The resurrection proves that God is real, Jesus is divine, and His Word is true. In His journey, the Lord took no shortcuts. He followed a path we all recognize: a natural birth, a life lived among us, and a death where He did not escape pain. But then came the fourth step: the Resurrection. Because He took these steps, the path is set for each of us.

There is a lot going on in this passage. First, we see that the tomb is empty. The two Marys, who had stood faithfully at the cross when others ran and hid, were there when He was laid in the tomb. They were in deep mourning, and now they had to process the transition from grief to the overwhelming joy of the Resurrection. Then, there is the Angel. His radiance, reminiscent of the Transfiguration, displayed purity and reverence, serving as a shining reminder of God's promise. We see the physical evidence of the earthquake, which explains the unsealing of the tomb, and we see the guards. These men were literally "scared to death." Their presence, and the placement of the stone, was intended to prevent a false claim of resurrection—yet their terror only serves as further proof of the miracle. The resurrection is essential; without it, we cannot fully understand the Good News. The message is clear: He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

There is something uniquely unsettling about an empty space where something—or someone—is supposed to be. Imagine the "empty feeling" Mary Magdalene and the other Mary felt. They had to wait through the Sabbath, forbidden to walk or work, likely watching the horizon for the first light of dawn. When they finally reached the tomb, the shock was total. I remember once going to a meeting. I prefer to be early rather than late, so I found the building and walked into the conference room, only to find it completely

empty. My mind began to race: Was it the wrong time? The wrong date? Am I in the wrong place? That "empty feeling" stays with you until you realize what is actually happening. In my case, they had simply moved to a larger room with more comfortable chairs. Once I realized the truth, my anxiety vanished. The two Marys went to look at the tomb and felt that something was terribly wrong. They felt that shock and those "goosebumps." Their only reassurance came from the words of the angel. To their immediate concern, the angel said, "He is not here," but followed it with the ultimate comfort: "He has risen... just as he said."

It is remarkable how often Jesus announced His destiny. He was never caught off guard. The first time, He explained to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, and be raised. The second time, after the Transfiguration, He told them they would see Him raised from the dead. The third and fourth times, He was explicit: He would be betrayed, killed, and on the third day, be raised to life. Even a fifth time, He told them that after He had risen, He would go ahead of them into Galilee. The irony is that despite these repeated warnings, the followers were still shocked by the crucifixion and stunned by the resurrection. They simply didn’t "get it" until the moment it happened.

Today is special. Easter is the day we celebrate the resurrection and the blessings we receive through prayer, worship, and fellowship. I urge you: don’t let anything get in the way of the blessing. We all face temptations and the setbacks of life, but do not let fear, doubt, or heartache interfere with what God has for you today. Receive this news, believe it, own it, and share it. We must never withhold the universal love of God. While some once felt God’s blessing was reserved for a few, Jesus took that blessing and shared it with all of us, though it cost Him great suffering to do so. There are two kinds of people in this world: those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord!" and those who wake up and say, "Good Lord, it’s morning!" Today is Easter. Today is the day we celebrate the victory of life over death. Let us wake up with joy, celebrate the resurrection, and receive the blessing of a loving God!