

## MATTHEW 28

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. <sup>7</sup> And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

<sup>8</sup> The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. <sup>9</sup> And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped

him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

<sup>16-21</sup> <sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



## SUNRISE VIGIL

TO BE PRACTICED AT THE  
RISING OF THE SUN EASTER  
MORNING

A SERVICE OF CONNECTING IN A  
TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING  
EASTER 2020

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## EASTER SUNRISE 2020



### HOW TO USE THIS SERVICE

Start at 7:00AM. Each of us joined together in worship and prayer. Keep a close watch for 7:07 to observe a minute of silence until 7:08 the official time of sunrise. If two or more are gathered choose a leader.

### GATHERING: 7: 00 AM

Join together outside or by a West facing window where you can observe the sunrise

### READ MATTHEW 28: 1- 10 & 16- 20

#### IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

Read slowly. Read out loud.

Listen very carefully to Matthew's words.

Try to listen as if you have never heard this

passage before. Set aside preconceived notions about the passage and its meaning.

Invite the Holy Spirit to help you hear it afresh and new!

After reading walk through the guide for meditation below.

#### PASSAGE MEDITATION

- What stood out to you?
- Did a particular word or phrase catch your attention? Why do you think it did?
- Was there anything you didn't notice before that you did this time?
- Talk to God about what you heard or to those who are gathered with you?
- Reread the passage and continue the reflections.

*(Be sure to stop by 7:07)*



7: 07 TO 7: 08 AM  
SILENT MEDITATION



SUNRISE 7: 08 AM  
READINGS AND PRAYER

*ALL: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.*

**LEADER:** The Apostle Paul reminds us that in Christ we have already died, drowned in baptism. Yet we have died and raised to newness of life.

#### PRAY:

**LEADER:** God of holiness and light, in mystery of dying and rising with Christ. You have established a new covenant of reconciliation.

*ALL: Cleanse out heart and give a new spirit to all your people,*

**LEADER:** Cleanse out heart and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be made known to the whole world;

*ALL: Through Jesus Christ our Lord AMEN*

#### CLOSING THOUGHT:

John 20 tell us on that first Easter Morning that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was still dark. God did not even wait for the sun to rise to redeem his son on that third day. Realize God's love for you, how deep how wide how immeasurable and pure.

*GO IN PEACE*