

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup> Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

<sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

- Matthew 28:1-10 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

- Luke 2:8-10 (*English Standard Version*)

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

- 1 John 4:13-21 (*English Standard Version*)

# Sermon Outline

**With Fear and Great Joy...**  
Matthew 28:1-10

*The Lamb is Alive*  
Brad Anderson

*The resurrection of Jesus Christ produces fear and great joy within his followers...*  
(Matthew 28:8-10)

**Given such a strange combination of emotion,  
how do we respond appropriately?**

**Serve the Lord with fear...** (Psalm 2:11)

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**Rejoice with trembling...** (Psalm 2:11)

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**Reflection Questions** (taken in part from the *Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- What do you like to do first thing on Sunday morning? Why?
- Do you believe what you hear? What you see? What you want?
- Who visits the tomb? When? Why now (see Matthew 6:1; also Luke 23:56-24:1)?
- What were they feeling on their way to the tomb? What problems do they expect to confront (see Matthew 27:60, 65-66)?
- How do you think they felt as they left the tomb? As they met Jesus?
- Describe a time when you have felt the strange combination of fear mixed with great joy.
- How did the reality of Jesus' resurrection "dawn" upon you? Were you more of a "quick believer" or a "slow doubter"? Why?
- How would you argue against the ideas (some still believe) that: (a) The disciples stole the body? (b) Jesus only "swooned" on the cross, and revived in the cool tomb? (c) The resurrection was a legend that caught on?