

Readings

Scripture

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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." ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and 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, and there they will see me."

¹¹ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'" ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:1-20 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

When He Arose
Matthew 28:1-20

Were You There?
Brad Anderson

As disciples who follow Jesus, we are often confronted by a surprising series of events... (Matthew 28:1-8)

Surprised by a recognizable man that stands... (Matthew 28:9-10)

Surprised by a cover-up that ensues... (Matthew 28:11-15)

Surprised by a doubt that remains... (Matthew 28:18-20)

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; see 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 (which some still believe): a. that the disciples stole the body? b. that Jesus only "swooned" on the cross, and revived in the cool tomb? c. that the resurrection was a legend that caught on?