

Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 28:7** *The angel's directions*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *The Marys were commissioned as the first to share the gospel of the risen Christ. What does their role in the Easter story mean to you?*
2. *Reflect on the angel's message. What is your hope today?*

Prayer Focus "He has been raised from the dead." Death was never the last word for you, Beloved, and hope is still your message. Help us to have the courage to embrace that hope as way to live.

Thursday

Read: **Matthew 28:8-9** *Jesus is alive*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What fears and joys might they have had as they ran to tell the disciples? What would be your reaction?*
2. *How is Jesus still going ahead of us today?*

Prayer Focus We worship you, Immanuel, as followers, who are reminded again at Easter of all you've given us. Help us sing and pray our gratitude that you never have and never will leave us alone.

Friday

Read: **Matthew 28:10** *Do not be afraid*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is new for you this Easter as you reflect on the Lenten journey to the resurrection?*
2. *Spend time in thanks and praise for all that you can do with courage in the risen Christ.*

Prayer Focus "Don't be afraid. You will see me. Tell others. Show others." We hear you, risen Christ. We will live so they can see you in us.

Do Not Be Afraid

Pastor's message: Easter; Matthew 28:1-10

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Briefly: How is it with your soul this Easter?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Matthew 28:1-10**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

DO NOT BE AFRAID **APRIL 9, 2023**

Monday

Read: Matthew 28:1-3 *The stone is rolled away*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What do you think the Marys were expecting when they started out that morning?*
2. *Where in your life do you see the need—problems or hurts—for a stone to be rolled away?*

Prayer Focus We can only imagine how the women felt as the first to know the shocking news of your resurrection. We hope it won't take an earthquake to awaken us to the truth of your living presence today. Roll away the stone that keeps us in the dark, Savior.

Tuesday

Read: Matthew 28:4-6 *He is not here*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What gave the Marys the courage to step into a tomb with an angel?*
2. *What do you imagine the women were thinking when they saw the empty tomb?*

Prayer Focus The guards fainted for fear of the angel, and we are sometimes afraid to hear your message, Holy One. Yet we know you did not rise to scare us but to show us hope and courage in you. Thank you.