



**CHRIST  
IS RISEN**

April 4, 2021

**Scripture: John 20:1-21**

Easter Sunday began in darkness. Because of the rush to prepare for the Sabbath, Jesus' body was placed in a tomb. In the cool of the morning, Mary Magdalene and several other women went to prepare the body for burial. What they found was an episode of CSI: the stone was rolled away, the grave clothes lay empty, with no sign of the Roman guards who had been stationed there.

In the midst of the confusion, Mary remained at the grave, overcome with grief, unable to process what she had found. The mere disappointment began. Through her tears, she noticed the angels in the tomb, and then heard a voice behind her, "Why are you weeping?" She couldn't recognize the face because her lasting memory was a man marred beyond recognition. Then he called out her name, "Mary." That was when she knew that it was indeed Jesus.

Soon after meeting the disciples in the upper room, they began to understand the mission of Christ. Jesus commanded them to go and declare the mystery of faith. We, too, are called to bear witness, to testify to the resurrection of the King, and his victory over sin, darkness, and death. These things are not hopes or dreams; they are certainties. They are as certain as the resurrection of Jesus, and for that reason, on this day, the church the world over celebrates: **THE LORD IS RISEN, INDEED, ALLELUIA!**

**Reflection**

**How does the resurrection of Jesus change the way that we approach our day to day lives?**

**Prayer**

**Gracious Lord, through Jesus' death and resurrection you have restored our relationship with you. Forgive us for the times that we have taken salvation for granted. Holy Spirit renew our passion for the gospel, and our desire to live as resurrection people. On this day, remind the Church again that Christ is risen indeed and send us into the world to declare this good news. Amen.**