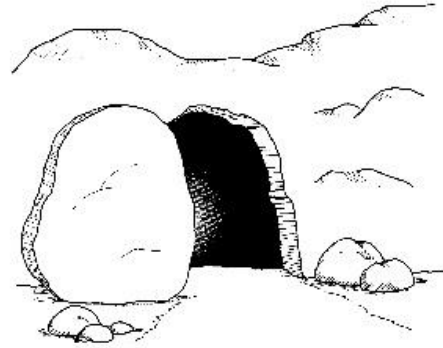


**April 4, 2021**  
**Willerup United Methodist Church**  
**Sermon Notes**  
**Pastor Marvin Singh**  
**Easter Sunday**



### **The Resurrection of Our Lord**

Let us wish you a very blessed Resurrection Day of our Lord, which we also call Easter. April 1, 2017 brought us to this pulpit of Willerup UMC Cambridge, to serve the Lord and his body here.

The resurrection changed and completely transformed the disciples of Jesus so they could carry the commission which they received personally to the world around them. They preached it boldly and in the power of the Holy Spirit, which they received on fiftieth day after the resurrection.

The event of the resurrection of our Lord is mentioned in all four gospels. Remember each writer writes with their own perspective, training and with a different audience in mind. So do not be surprised that the event is written not exactly the same, but a little differently in each. Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20-21.

I would like to focus on the story of the women who went to the tomb, and then carried the good news to the disciples.

1. What was on their minds on their way to the tomb?
  - a. Who will move the stone for us? They were thinking ahead of facing the situation. There are **obstacles** in our minds which can

close off and restrict us from what we are called to do for the Lord.

b. They had in mind to anoint the body of Christ with spices, the customary preparation for burial, which had not yet been done due to his burial just at the start of the Jewish sabbath. They knew where the body had been placed.

c. We often need to take **a step of faith**, not knowing what will happen. We forget the divine grace which enables us to experience miracles. Because they went in faith, despite the obstacles, these women experienced holy joy: first that the stone was already removed, then when the angels gave them the good news.

“He is not here, He has risen”

“With man this is impossible, but with God everything is possible,” Matthew 19:26

They could not have opened the tomb with their own strength.

**God remembers when his people need help.**

He remembered Joseph in Egypt, Lot in Sodom, Daniel in the lion’s den; the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, Israel in the Red Sea and Paul and Silas in prison. He opens doors which no one can shut.

2. Another lesson which we learn is that “He shall give his angels charge over you,” (Psalm 91:11). “Fear not, stand still (Be still) and know the salvation of the Lord,” (Exodus 14:13, Psalm 46:10). **Faith is always tried and tested.** In desperate situations, God helps. Does He forget, and withhold comfort and hope from his people? No not at all.

a. Did He forget Hagar in the desert?

Genesis 16:13-14 “She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: ‘You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me.’ That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.”

b. Did he forget the Israelites in the wilderness? He provided them with water at Marah and Elim (Exodus 15:22-27), manna and quail (Ex. 16), and made water spring from a rock (Ex. 17).

c. Did he forget Elijah at the Kerith Ravine, during the years of drought? 1 Kings 17:5-6, “So he did what the Lord told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.”

d. Did he forget the widow of Zarephath and her jug of oil? 1 Kings 17:7-24

3. What was the mission of the women?

a. When they set out toward the tombs, their mission was to take care of a dead body. They were coming to put spices on the body as it was not done at the time of burial, as the Sabbath had already started.

But everything changed when the angels announced to them: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!”

b. Their mission was changed to:

(i) witnessing a living and resurrected Christ, and

(ii). A challenging assignment to tell the story of the resurrection of the Lord to his disciples, whom he addresses as ‘my brothers.’

The disciples were still closed in their “tombs” of fear and doubt.

c. Why was this mission given to these women?

They had been with him in ministry.

They had been with him at the foot of the cross.

Matthew 27:55-56 – “Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’ sons.”

Mark 15:40-41, “Some women were watching from a distance.

Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.”

Luke 23:55-56, “The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.”

John 19:25 “Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.”

Most of the chosen disciples were hiding and not displaying their loyalty. John the beloved disciple came to the cross with the women. Peter was watching at a distance during the trial, and when the opportunity came to declare his relationship with Christ, he denied it three times. The other disciples were so afraid they hid themselves behind closed doors.

The women were the first to arrive to take care of the body and were surprised by:  
The stone removed  
Angels sitting near  
The message they received from the angels  
And finally, Jesus appeared to them first of all his followers, and sent them to the others with a mission.  
Hebrews 11:6 “ ... Anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly/diligently seek him.”

3. The disciples gathered in Jerusalem at the Upper Room fifty days later (Acts 2).

They were all together in one place.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire, that separated and came to rest on each one of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

When Peter addressed the crowd in Acts 2:17-21, he referenced Joel 2:28,

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

... Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit ...”

Jesus had foretold this event in Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

And at a following meeting some days later, in Acts 4:31, we see the Spirit continuing to work powerfully: “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”