**4/9/23**

**Come, See, Go, Tell**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

Jesus Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!

Oh come on! Let’s try that together one more time with a little more excitement and emphasis!

Jesus Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!

We have managed to take some kind of journey this past week haven’t we?!?! Unfortunately, though it seems that we are always way too eager to jump, skip, and hop right from Palm Sunday to Easter. However, we need to remind ourselves to slow down a little bit and take everything in that Holy Week has to offer us. We must go from the beginning to the end. It is very important that the good and the bad be taken in so we get the entire story and the full experience. It is extremely vital to our faith journey!

I mean, after all, it really is pretty cool that we started the week out on Palm Sunday with Jesus riding in to town on a donkey and a colt with cloaks and palms set out on the road for him. He was getting the royal welcoming of a king, yet he was riding into his eventual betrayal and demise. Despite knowing his eventual fate… he continued to ride on for you and for me!!!

We then moved on to Maundy Thursday where we received one of the most important commands, and that is to love one another as I have loved you. We got to witness Jesus leading by example and showing sacrificial love through foot washing. He also shared that all important Last Supper with his disciples.

We then traveled into Good Friday, a day that is labeled good solely for the fact that we know the entire story. “From this side of Easter, we can call Friday “Good” because we know that it was not over, all had not been lost. What had appeared to be an ending was actually a beginning. God was not defeated, God opened a new door, and opened it wide enough for you and me to go through it.” (2) We knew the Easter miracle and victory were yet to come. So, as we gathered for our “Tenebrae” Service together we experienced shadows and darkness. We experienced more of the story by reading through the 7 Last Words of Jesus. The deception and conviction had occurred. Our Lord was crucified like some common thief or criminal despite doing no wrong. He was put to death on a cross for each and every one of us. We are also forever reminded that the nails were not what actually held him to that very tree… but indeed it was himself and his will to follow through with what scripture had written. He would much rather pay the price for our sins, than ever allow us to suffer and not be allowed to live in eternity with him.

Now, we have made it to today! We have made it to Easter! We have made it to The Resurrection! The day that we manage to celebrate somehow with a bunny and candy and some cool gifts, not that there is anything wrong with that per-se. However, we need to continue to remind ourselves and others that today is indeed about the lamb, and the most special and important gift that every one of us has the ability to receive, and that is the very gift of everlasting life. Thanks be to God for that!

As I was doing my research for today I came across a story I thought was particularly funny, and hopefully you feel the same way. So, here goes nothing. “‘A preacher was telling the story about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ to a group of children. He asked, "What did Jesus say when he came forth from the grave?" He was trying to make the point that he didn’t need to say anything, that his wondrous miracle said more than words could ever say. A young lady however insisted that she knew what Jesus said. The preacher finally asked her to tell him what Jesus said. She smiled widely and said, "Ta Dah!"” (3) I stand here and can only imagine the look on her face as she opened up that Easter Egg sized bit of knowledge to everyone!

 “Now I don’t know if that is what Jesus actually said, if anything at all, but from a human standpoint I can imagine the excitement of just defying death and just perhaps Jesus doing something like that, (in part because I believe that Jesus had a human side as well as a sense of humor).” (3) That childlike faith is the very essence of Easter, and it is the very essence of every day as we continually get to experience our lives with Jesus in our hearts, minds, and souls.

"Ta Dah!" is a pretty cool message and thought process to remember for sure. Our Gospel Reading today has a pretty clear message similar to that as well. With these next four words I am about to share with you we will see if you indeed got that very simple message, and I am pretty sure your heads will begin to nod in a manner to confirm that. Today’s message is summed up by Come… See… Go… Tell!!!

Come… Obviously to experience anything in life you have to go somewhere and take something in. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. Their hands were full with supplies, even though they were told this death was not going to be like any other. They still followed traditional ritual and practice because it was normal, or for all intents and purposes they were on auto-pilot. “But on this day, there will be no last rites, no embalming, no funeral, after all.” (1)

See… They get vision and experience here, as a great earthquake occurs. They experience and feel the power of the Lord as he has shaken the entire earth. They get the vision of the stone rolled away. Now, as if the earth trembling under Mary Magdalene and the other Mary’s feet and the stone being moved from the front of the tomb was not enough of an experience they got to see or meet with an angel of the Lord whose appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. They got to see first-hand that no tomb or grave could hold our Jesus down. Just like the very balloons used by Heather in the children’s sermon earlier today.

Go… was their next command or order of business. They were ordered to go, and no just go at normal speed, but go quickly. They were to leave this very place at the tomb where they experienced great joy and fear and get on to their next mission. They were to go and locate the disciples. They were to go and have love and belief that would of course be backed up by Jesus’ continued action.

Tell… Yes, they were to share the very experiences they just had. More importantly they were ordered to share the all too important message that He was indeed not there; for he had been raised! Now, who would imagine that when you get told to go and do something like this that on your journey you end up getting stopped by the very one you were to go and tell the message about?!?! I mean Jesus just kind of strolls up to them all nonchalantly and is like hey, what’s up? Okay let me use the formal word we hear in our Gospel Reading… “Greetings.” I mean they were so focused, afraid, and joyful to go and locate the disciples and tell the message the very last thing I am thinking they expected was to have a real life encounter with him on the way. So, our Gospel Reading tells us that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. They got to go and tell even more to the disciples when they met with them. They also needed to tell them, or command them, to go on the way to Galilee as they would get to experience the Lord and his presence soon enough for themselves.

Come… See… Go… Tell!!! Now wait just one minute here! If we have not learned anything from the Bible, isn’t it usually always men that seem to be the ones who always get the work or the important tasks?!?! I mean the women and children were not even counted in the feeding story we got in the gospels. How is it that all of a sudden Mary Magdalene and the other Mary are held in such high regard? How is it they are the ones getting to be such major players in the story? Well, it is pretty plain and simple of course! Our God decides he wants us to experience another earthquake of sorts, and he shook the mentality of the so-called norm and imparted on these two ladies the most important experience and ability to share the good news.

I also want you to remember this. “Jesus appears, not only to the women leaving the tomb, but also to us, who worship him now this Sunday and hold on to his body in the bread of the Eucharist.” (1) “Each time we come here to celebrate the resurrection, each time we come here to partake in the bread and wine, we feel for a moment, a brief moment the power of the resurrection in our lives. For it is here we receive a foretaste, a nibble of what the resurrection will be like when we leave this earth and join Jesus in the heavenly mansions.” (3)

As we close things up here together today we are forever reminded that “Jesus is the real McCoy. He really did rise from the grave. He is alive. He is listening to our prayers. He is always open for business when that business deals with the human heart in need of a shepherd’s guidance and love.” (3) We also come to realize “… as believers, Easter joy is not just limited to this Sunday, but it is to be part of every Sunday. This Easter joy is to be part of everyday of our life.” (4) So, I challenge you to continue to incorporate “Come… See… Go… Tell” into your daily lives and go out and share the Easter Story.

I offer you the chance to shout out and proclaim yet again the biggest message and reality of the day… are you ready?!?! Jesus Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!

Amen.

**References**

(1) Sundays and Seasons

 Preaching

 Year A 2023

 April 9, 2023

 Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

(2) SermonCentral.com

 The Road To Easter Runs Through A Cemetery

 Contributed by Mari Larson on Apr 23, 2014

 Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

 Denomination: Lutheran

(3) SermonCentral.com

 It Is Easter Today, And Next Sunday

 Contributed by Tim Zingale on Mar 17, 2008

 Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

 Denomination: Lutheran

(4) SermonCentral.com

 The Empty Tomb Is A Place Of Life Series

 Contributed by Timm Meyer on Apr 23, 2003

 Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

 Denomination: Lutheran

**Matthew 28:1-10**

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

1After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”