

EASTER SUNDAY YEAR A  
ACTS 10:34-43  
COLOSSIANS 3:1-4  
MATTHEW 28:1-10  
APRIL 16, 2017

Expectation and anticipation are part of our everyday lives. A woman that has gone into labor waits with expectation and anticipation as her time to deliver draws near. When looking for a new job we wait with anticipation and expectation hoping the phone call will come saying you have been hired. Some wait with anticipation and expectation as the new baseball season begins. Some of us buy a Powerball ticket and wait with anticipation and expectation as the numbers are being read. I wake up each morning wondering what the new day will bring. There is a sense of expectation and anticipation as I look forward to what might be coming on any particular day. I am not one to wait on pins and needles but there is excitement that comes with anticipating and expecting.

I wonder how many kids waited in anticipation this morning as they wondered what would be found in those Easter baskets. How large would that chocolate bunny be? Would there be something inside that plastic Easter egg that would be worth the wait? How many parents waited to see the reaction of the kid as they found their baskets? There was a sense of anticipation and expectation for the women going to the tomb on that Resurrection morning.

**Matthew 28:1-3 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And 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. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.**

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb early that Sunday morning. As Matthew tells the story, the women went to visit the tomb much in the same way you and I might visit the tombs of our loved ones. It could be that they went to the tomb not knowing what to expect. I don't know that they were expecting Jesus to be alive or that the stone would be rolled back from the tomb

but I wonder if they went with anticipation and expectation. They had been with Jesus as he taught his disciples. Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went with Jesus and the disciples as they made their way from Galilee to Jerusalem. The gospels tell us that it was the women that provided for Jesus and the disciples. The women provided financial resources for the group and possibly took care of their everyday needs.

When Jesus taught the disciples about going to Jerusalem where he would be handed over to sinners and Gentiles and be crucified they heard. When Jesus talked about rising again on the third day they also heard. This was the third day. Were they going to the tomb remembering the Lord's words?

Many of us come to church today because we also want to see. We know Jesus is alive and that he is truly present among us. I hope that you came to church with a sense of expectation and anticipation. I hope you are excited to hear this familiar story again. It is also my hope that you are expecting something new today. Maybe it will be a fresh revelation from God because of the music, the Bible readings and the sermon. Maybe you come to a new relationship with the Lord as you come to the table for Holy Communion. Maybe breakfast (will) provided you with a renewal or a restoration of relationships that might have gone dormant over time. Today we celebrate our Lord's resurrection with anticipation and expectation.

**Matthew 28:5, 6 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.**

The women went to the tomb and were greeted by an earthquake and an angel in dazzling white. The angel was glowing brighter than the sun. The women did not run away. We read earlier that the guards at the tomb fainted because of the earthquake and fear at the presence of the angel. The women did not faint. Their fear was a reverent fear. It was a fear that provided them with a sense of

expectation and anticipation. **“Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus but he is not here. Come and see the place where he lay.”**

You and I are invited to go with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary as they go to the tomb and as they see what God left for them to see. We are also invited to not be afraid of the Lord. We are invited to also look into the empty tomb and believe that Jesus is alive and that he has gone ahead of us. You and I have also heard the words of Jesus and have now seen the fulfillment of those words. We are not left to faint out of fear but to listen to the Lord’s messenger as this good news is revealed. **“He is not here but as been raised.”** We are instructed to go and tell this good news to our brothers and sisters who may not be anticipating or expecting anything different. Along with the women we are to reveal the message of salvation in all that we say and do.

**Matthew 28:9, 10** Suddenly Jesus met them and said, **“Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”**

As they went to tell the disciples, Jesus appeared to the women. Jesus met them along the way. The immediate response of the women was to worship him. They fell at his feet and they worshipped. As we are about serving the Lord he comes to us. He reveals himself to us and is alive. The one that has died is living. He is living and he empowers us for the work we are called to. When we are faithful in serving the Lord we will see Jesus. When we do as our Lord asks we see him. The disciples were instructed to go to Galilee and they would see Jesus.

You and I have come to church on Easter Sunday and you have seen and experienced the risen Savior. You have come because God invited you. You have come because the Holy Spirit inspired you. Even if it was your mom, dad or grandparents that urged you to come it was the move of the Spirit within you. You are here and you have seen Jesus. Now we go and tell our brothers and sisters that Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! AMEN