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Easter Sunday

## When Sunday Feels Like Saturday

Mark 16:1-8



### Background

As the saying goes, “It’s always darkest before dawn” — this was no less true that first Easter Sunday when Jesus’ followers woke up thinking He was still buried in the tomb. But as the Gospel of Mark reminds us, sometimes it’s pretty dark even after the sun has risen! This Easter coincides with a return to post-pandemic normalcy, but perhaps life still feels dark despite the sun. Come join us as we prepare to emerge together into the Resurrection life of Christ.

### Sermon Text: Mark 16:1-8 (ICB – International Children’s Bible)

*<sup>1</sup> The day after the Sabbath day, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought some sweet-smelling spices to put on Jesus’ body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on that day, the first day of the week, the women were on their way to the tomb. It was soon after sunrise. <sup>3</sup> They said to each other, “There is a large stone covering the entrance of the tomb. Who will move the stone for us?” <sup>4</sup> Then the women looked and saw that the stone was already moved. The stone was very large, but it was moved away from the entrance. <sup>5</sup> The women entered the tomb and saw a young man wearing a white robe. He was sitting on the right side, and the women were afraid. <sup>6</sup> But the man said, “Don’t be afraid. You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, the one who was killed on a cross. He has risen from death. He is not here. Look, here is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup> Now go and tell his followers and Peter, ‘Jesus is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there as he told you before.’” <sup>8</sup> The women were confused and shaking with fear. They left the tomb and ran away. They did not tell anyone about what happened, because they were afraid.*

### Discussion Questions

#### 1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you the most?

## 2. Sermon questions

- a. Was there a Resurrection Sunday highlight for you this year?
- b. Mark forces us to sit in the uncomfortableness of the fear and confusion of Resurrection Sunday. All the women and disciples felt fear and confusion on that first Easter, yet none were rejected for it. Do you feel fear and confusion in your life right now? Does it help you to know that the risen Jesus meets the women and disciples in their fear and confusion? Why or why not?
- c. God is a “patient, generous, gentle and compassionate God.” In other words, he is good. And, he walks through our darkness with us. Is this your view of God? Why or why not?
- d. “Don’t just act out the script; put it on pause if you need and let Jesus meet you in that pause.” How do you respond to this statement by Eugene?
- e. What parts of KP’s (Kevin Pateo) story did you resonate with?