



[Pastor Keith GeRue](#)

**Sermon for Easter Sunday**

April 5, 2026

# Proclaiming the Good News

## Matthew 28:1-10

Alleluia! Christ is risen! [He is risen indeed! Alleluia!]

In the Name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I wish that we could see as the angels see. We wouldn't panic and worry and fear as much as we usually do. Oh, not that the sin and evil and trouble in the world doesn't hurt - it does. And not that the traitor, the devil, isn't dangerous - he most certainly is. But our Father is greater than all that! He is working all things for your good! Even if you can't see it. And what happened these three days proves it. For if our Father can bring good even from the cross and the death of His Son, then there's nothing He can't bring good from!

What in your life is worse than that? Than the cross? If you think there is, that's an bold claim! Someone sinned against you, hurt you? Well, Jesus took all those sins upon Himself. Now, I'm not belittling sin or the hurt it's causing you, or even death and the fear it's causing you - not at all! Watching you go through it hurts our Father as well. This is not what He wants for you! You parents know that. When your child is hurting or scared, you want to help them. How much more your perfect heavenly Father! Direct your eyes from yourself and what's happening to you, so that you plant them firmly on Jesus. For when you look at yourself and the sin and hurt and pain, you magnify it. And when you look at Jesus and His forgiveness and healing and joy, you magnify Him. And that's better.

And that's what happened that Sunday morning. The women - bless their hearts! - went to the tomb looking for death. And since that's what they were looking at, that's what filled their minds - the horrible images of blood and death - they were filled with sadness and dread. So, as they approached the tomb - and angels rolled the stone away from the tomb so they could see it was empty. They didn't do that to let Jesus out! Like Jesus needed us to help Him rise from the dead! No, He was risen already when the stone was rolled away.

When they got close to the tomb, they saw the stone had been moved. And then they saw that Jesus' body wasn't there. And they were perplexed, confused, dumbfounded, speechless, paralyzed . . . and that's when our Father allowed the angels to appear to them, looking like **two men in dazzling apparel**. They frightened the women - they didn't mean to! That's why they appeared as men, not in full-out angelic battle gear! But, I think



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you can understand their reaction as they fell with **their faces to the ground**. And that's when the women got to hear the good news!

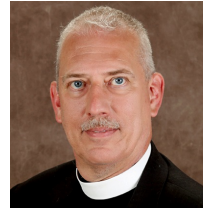
**Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.**

Now Jesus had taught that many of times. But it didn't sink in. They didn't want to believe that He would be crucified, and they couldn't believe He would rise. But as they heard this message - and you see what God did there? He directed them off themselves and the pain and the trouble and the sadness and the death to the Word of God! And when they did . . . you could see them remembering . . . and you could see them beginning to realize . . . you could see the Holy Spirit working faith in their hearts through this Word of God. . .

So, with that, they ran back to the others, to the eleven, to tell them. Next thing you know, here's comes Peter sprinting down the path towards the tomb, and he poked his head into the tomb and **saw the linen cloths by themselves** - no body in them anymore! And he **marveled**. He believed but he didn't believe . . . he thought but he didn't think . . . he wondered, he remembered, he hoped . . . for *Jesus Himself* would remove that doubt for Peter and the others, Sunday evening. You're going to hear that next week!

And so, here is the message for you it's all true! **Jesus dead, Jesus buried, Jesus risen and alive!** You know that. That's why you're here. But maybe, still, you're like the women, and like Peter . . . confused, afraid, a mixed-up jumble of belief and unbelief, your heart saying one thing and your mind another. Your heart, your faith, telling you to be one way, but your sinful nature pulling you in another. Your faith telling you one thing, but so much of what you see in the world and in your life making you wonder and doubt. Wars and hate and division, cultural chaos, emptying churches, fractured families and marriages, things seeming to always be going in the wrong direction . . . And you see it so much, that's what you've come to expect. You expect sin, not forgiveness. Hurt, not healing. Disappointment, not fulfillment. Evil, not good. Death, not life.

But that's what makes today so great! Because it is completely different than the expected! Here's is everything you need, accomplished by Jesus **for you**. And if Jesus can bring and work good from cross and death and the grave, He can bring and work good in your life as well. *Whatever* it is you're going through. Even though you look and see no hope, remember what brought the women and Peter hope - **not seeing, but God's Word!** That Jesus had fulfilled all the words and promises of God **for you**. That not only *He* lives, that not only *He* rose to life, but that you do, too. Jesus is about life that is eternal. About life



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risen from the dead. If your faith is only about here and now, he says you are to be pitied! There's so much more than that. And Jesus has more for you.

But that doesn't mean Jesus doesn't care about your life here and now. He certainly does! But here's the thing: remember that earlier I told you that when you look at yourself and the sin and hurt and pain, **you magnify it?** And when you look at Jesus and His forgiveness and healing and joy, **you magnify that?** Well, that's what's going on here! Paul says don't fixate on the here and now - fix your eyes on Jesus. **For eyes focused on the victory help you live now in the struggle.** Because as hard as things might be now, you know the end of the story. You know how it will all turn out. Oh, I know, sometimes your eyes are blinded, like the women and Peter and the others.

But that's why Easter - *and all Sundays* - are so important! Every week, they re-focus your eyes on Jesus and the victory. And that's why we come every Sunday.

So, here's an idea: on that first Easter, after the women told Peter and the others that Jesus wasn't in the tomb but had risen from the dead, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to see for himself. Be like that - every Sunday! Jump up and run to church - not to see an empty tomb, **but to be with your risen Savior**, who is here for you! Here speaking words of forgiveness and life to you. Here feeding you with His Body and Blood. Here giving you life and hope again. Life and hope to sustain you another week in this difficult world, and under the assaults of Devil.

**But so is today!** Don't let the challenges and disappointments of life get you down. You have life in Christ. The victory is yours! That's what this day is all about. And because of this day, everyday. That *Christ is risen!* [He is risen indeed! Alleluia!] Amen.